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SECOND SERIES

The
CANADIAN WHEAT POOLS
ON THE AIR

A SERIES OF RADIO MESSAGES BROADCAST
BY OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS
OF THE WHEAT POOLS
OF WESTERN
CANADA



Issued by
The Wheat Pool Organizations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
March, 1936



FOREWORD



A SERIES of radio addresses delivered during the fall and winter of 1934-35 by officials and supporters of the Wheat Pool organizations, was published a year ago and received such a friendly reception that the second series of radio addresses, given recently over a network of Western Canada radio stations, is available in pamphlet form.

During the past year the Canadian Parliament accepted the wheat marketing problem of Canada as a national responsibility. Legislation establishing the Canadian Wheat Board received the unanimous support of all parties. The enactment of this legislation, advocated for many years by the grain producers of Western Canada, does not mean that there will be any less need for strong producers' co-operative grain handling organizations.

Every forward step in the long struggle of prairie farmers to establish a decent standard of living and to secure a square deal for the agricultural industry has been gained through the efforts of the farmers' own organizations. The series of addresses in this pamphlet gives a brief summary of the purposes and achievements of the Wheat Pool organizations and the principles upon which they are founded.

These messages were broadcast under the management of the Western Broadcasting Bureau, Winnipeg, between November 6th, 1935 and February 19th, 1936, from a network of Western Canada radio stations including the following:

CKY	WINNIPEG	CJGX	YORKTON
CJRM	MOOSE JAW	CFQC	SASKATOON
CHWC	REGINA	CFCN	CALGARY
CJCA	EDMONTON	CFRN	EDMONTON

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WHEAT POOLS *and* THEIR OBJECTIVES

Radio Address by LOUIS C. BROUILLETTE

President Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

President Canadian Wheat Pool

November 6th, 1935

MANY of the farmers who are listening to me tonight are pioneers who will recall "the thrill that comes once in a lifetime", when they turned the first sod on their homestead. They were making a fresh start in a new country. Old disappointments were forgotten and current hardships were discounted; for they were facing the future with hope and confidence. It was only reasonable to believe that a hundred and sixty acres, or a half or three-quarter section farm for those with a little capital, of rich prairie soil should produce, under proper tillage, crops that would provide them with all the necessities and some of the comforts of life. It had not dawned on them that their land might produce abundantly and yet yield them only a bare and uncertain living, with other interests and the nation as a whole benefitting more from the development of the prairies than the men, women and children on the prairie farms.

It was the bitter disappointment and resentment of the early settlers at the meagre net return for their labors that brought into existence the farmers' organizations which have exerted and are exerting such a powerful influence in the life and development of Western Canada. From these early farmers' organizations sprang the Wheat Pools, and the various agricultural co-operative organizations handling other farm crops.

There was one cardinal principle common to all these farmer organizations, the determination to establish and maintain a decent standard of living on the prairie farms. Through organization, by education, by legislation, by co-operation, they are working toward this end. On this policy the Wheat Pool organizations were founded. Our great modern terminal elevators, our splendid system of country elevators, by far the largest and finest grain handling system in the world, are but a means to this end; not an end in themselves.

Through their elevator systems the Wheat Pool organizations brought about reforms which reduced the costs of handling grain not only to their own members but to all the grain producers of the prairie provinces. Believing that the reputation for the superior quality of Canadian wheat should be preserved, the Wheat Pool organizations succeeded in securing amendments to the Canada Grain Act prohibiting mixing of the top grades in terminal elevators, although this meant a heavy reduction in their own terminal earnings. They introduced the automatic sampler, which is now compulsory in all terminals. They have been instrumental in lowering the spreads between street and track wheat. As a service organization, operating on a non-profit co-operative basis, their elevators are equipped to give efficient service to all patrons, regardless of whether they are members of the Pools or non-members, and the Pool management has always regarded their organizations as working for the interests of Western Canadian agriculture as a whole instead of a section of the rural population.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Wheat Pools are set forth in the following extract from the Charter of Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers:

"To be an agricultural organization instituted for the purpose of mutual

help, to improve methods and reduce costs of marketing grain; to reduce speculation, manipulation and waste, and all unnecessary transactions in said marketing; to increase consumption, build up new markets and develop new uses for grain; to market same directly and with regularity, so as to furnish it economically to the users thereof; and to preserve for the growers and the public their proper profits and economies."

Mutual help is the cornerstone of the co-operative movement, and covers a much wider field than the handling or marketing of grain. The Pool organizations have taken a keen interest in the discoveries of our scientific agriculturists in lessening the cost of production by the introduction of new varieties of disease resistant grains. They have assisted farmers to secure pure seed of the varieties best suited to different localities. They have co-operated with our technical agriculturists, registered seed growers, and federal and provincial experts in maintaining the high quality of Canadian grain crops. At the request of the Pools, researches of the greatest value to Western grain growers have been carried out at our Western Universities and at Ottawa by the National Research Council.

Although coarse grains form only a small percentage of the handlings by the Pool elevators (as the great bulk of coarse grains are fed on the farms and less than a quarter of the coarse grains crop is delivered to the elevator systems), a great deal of work has been carried on by the Pool organizations to secure wider and more remunerative markets for coarse grains, both in Canada and abroad.

It is important that production costs on our farms should be reduced wherever possible; provided it is not done by lowering the standard of living on the farm, by having farm children trying to take a man's place running farm machinery when they should be in school, and overworked wives and mothers working in the fields as well as having all the cares of the household. We have often been told that "the farmer is the backbone of the country". Those who use this expression should bear in mind that it is a human backbone, not a mule's or a camel's, and the farmer properly objects to carrying more than his share of a heavy burden. But production is only a part of the farmer's business, and if the price he receives for his product is below production costs, marketing is by far the most vital part of his business. Therefore, quite properly the Wheat Pools have always had as a principal objective the securing of a fair price for Canada's main export commodity, wheat. Improving the quality, maintaining the high standard of Canadian grains at home and abroad, lowering handling costs, all have their place in building up agriculture. But as it is in the national interests of Canada that we should export annually a large percentage of the wheat entering world trade, it is equally in the national interests that those who produce this new wealth should receive sufficient for their labor to keep themselves and their industry from bankruptcy.

MARKETING: FARMER'S BUSINESS

From the early pioneer days of wheat production on the Canadian prairies a considerable number of farmers held the conviction that the handling and marketing of their grain was just as properly a part of the industry of agriculture as producing the crop. As farmers lacked the necessary capital to embark in a business requiring such large financial obligations, they felt it was quite properly the business of governments to assist the producers in building up producer controlled grain handling systems, and the successful operation of the Saskatchewan and Alberta Co-operative Elevator systems demonstrated the soundness of their contention.

Those systems, while they marked a great advance in the farmers' movement, were grain handling rather than grain marketing companies. The next and most difficult step was the marketing of the grain for or by the producers; instead of having the price set by a speculative system, with the opportunities it offered for manipulation at the expense, too frequently, of

the producer on the one hand and the consumer on the other. The marketing of all the crop by one body was a gigantic enterprise, but during the World War the closing of the futures market from May, 1917, to August, 1920, with the exception of one week in July, 1919, and the successful operation of the Canada Wheat Board for the crop year 1919-20 demonstrated how efficiently it could be done.

When all efforts to re-establish a National Board during the disastrous years 1920 to 1923 failed, a majority of producers massed their strength in the voluntary Wheat Pools. Acceptance of the wheat marketing problem as a national responsibility by the Parliament of Canada last July, and the appointment of The Canadian Wheat Board, recorded another victory for Western producers.

In building up and carrying on these great farmers' co-operative grain handling and marketing organizations, it has been necessary to secure the co-operation of provincial and federal governments, and the Wheat Pool organizations have assisted in securing the enactment of many measures of great importance to agriculture. The Wheat Pools took an active part in support of debt adjustment legislation; they submitted evidence favoring the establishment of the Bank of Canada; they supported the Natural Products Marketing Act; the Wheat Board legislation; they have given whole-hearted support to other producer co-operatives, and they have taken an active interest in the efforts of the League of Nations to bring about world peace.

During the period that the Pools have been in existence they have had to deal with governments representing different political parties, provincial and federal; farmers' parties, Liberal and Conservative, and have found that all governments were prepared to grant to some extent the legislation desired when it was seen that these measures were for the benefit of the agricultural industry as a whole. So long as this policy is followed we believe that the Wheat Pools will receive fair treatment from governments of any political complexion. In supporting legislation in the interest of all farmers, in supporting measures and not parties, in working with other farmer organizations for removing some of the disabilities under which agriculture suffers, we believe that the Wheat Pool organizations are carrying out one of the main objectives for which they were formed and for which they are maintained by their farmer members.

STRENGTH IN UNITY

We cannot believe that any government in any of our prairie provinces or any Dominion government would deliberately reject reasonable demands supported by the majority of producers in the interest of all producers; or that a government which would refuse justice to producers could long continue in power. But as it is only through organizations representing the bulk of producers that their wishes can be clearly and forcibly presented, it is the imperative duty of the farmers to keep their own organizations up to full strength so that they may deal on equal terms with the powerful and well organized interests more concerned with profits than with the welfare of the producers of wealth.

I have referred already to the mutually helpful relations existing between such farm organizations as our own and experimental farms, the National Research Council and other governmental agencies. However, as one of the leaders of the co-operative movement in the Province of Quebec has said—in words to this effect—it is good that governments have assisted producers in growing two blades of grass where one grew before, yet governmental responsibilities are not finished at this point and must continue until producers have marketed successfully the increased production.

Since the wheat produced in Western Canada is destined largely for consumption outside this country, it is natural that the Wheat Pools should be keenly interested in international marketing questions. They carry the

principle of co-operation applied to their own business into the wider field, believing that only by substitution of co-operation for competition all along the line can a saner economic system be built. Hence one of the Pools' objectives has been the attainment of a better understanding with the producers and consumers of other countries. Now that governments in all wheat importing countries, to protect their own growers from ruin, have erected barriers against floods of wheat from overseas sold below production costs, the need for frank and friendly discussion between representatives of producers in exporting and importing countries becomes more evident.

A flood of distress wheat spells bankruptcy for farmers of both export and importing countries. It may be welcomed by transportation and handling agencies which want volume above all, but we contend that the two parties who deserve first consideration are the farmer who grows the wheat and the consumer for whom it is grown. We must endeavour to assure the consumer of a constant supply of high quality wheat at a price which is not burdensome to him and at the same time reasonably remunerative to the producer. Whether the price of wheat is \$1.00 or 50c may be of no special concern to the various handling organizations who get the same return from the same volume, but it means the difference between solvency and bankruptcy to farmers, who in one instance deliver one million bushels of wheat and receive one million dollars and in the other must deliver two million bushels to receive that one million dollars. On the larger bushelage the total cost of production is doubled.

Our organizations, like the great consumers' co-operatives working at the other end toward a common goal, have service as their motive. We are on the threshold of an era of abundance, and as producers doing our share in creating that abundance, we aim to make it an actuality. To do so means substituting service for human needs in place of profit, through the co-operative movement.

Co-operation today is making progress in every civilized country on the globe. As it develops, and not otherwise, healthy reciprocal trade based on mutual benefit will flow among the nations. A brighter era for mankind will dawn when it is realized that the same relations that are best and fairest between neighbors are equally fruitful in the wider international sphere.

THE FARMER *in the* MODERN WORLD

Radio Address by DR. H. W. WOOD

Chairman of the Board

Alberta Wheat Pool and Alberta Pool Elevators Limited

November 13th, 1935

WHILE farming is the oldest and most indispensable profession in the world—for all other business would collapse if agriculture failed—farming is still our most primitive and least organized industry. Nearly three-fourths of the world's population are farmers, yet there are only a few countries where any large percentage of farmers are united through organizations for self help, and the bulk of the world's food is produced by primitive tillage methods with crude types of farm implements.

Even on this continent, where our large farms are said by European observers to be farm factories with an industrial rather than a peasant viewpoint on the part of the owner, agriculture has until very recently lagged far behind manufacturing in the application of scientific discoveries to labor-saving devices. Our farm tractors, gang plows, discs, seed drills and binders, are recent arrivals in the mechanical field. One western farmer voted at the recent Federal election who was born the same year as the McCormick reaper.

But while these mechanical aids to agriculture have taken much of the back-breaking drudgery out of farming, and would take much more if conditions in the modern world made it possible for the farmer to buy the machinery he needs, the farmer still leads a more laborious life, with longer hours and far fewer modern comforts and conveniences in his home than in that of his city neighbors. It is a simpler, a more natural life, but is a harder and more bare life than the bulk of the world's population should have to put up with. Plain living results in high thinking only when there is a little leisure and freedom from brooding. Worry over the present, and continual anxiety about the future is the lot of most of our hardest working and most intelligent farmers in this modern world today.

FARMERS' ENDURANCE TESTED

It is quite true that qualities of the highest value come out of hardships. Heat and cold, drought and insect pests, frost and hail, low prices for what he sells and high prices for what he buys, test the farmer's endurance and develop his courage and his patience. The farmer is often disappointed and discouraged, but he rarely despairs. The scepticism and cynicism which is often encountered in the cities, and which poisons so much of our modern literature, is rarely met with in the country.

Man's selfishness and the cruelty that springs from selfishness, may delay the arrival of peace on earth, good will among men, but through co-operation in its best and widest meaning, man has the privilege of assisting in carrying out the Divine purpose.

After long centuries of being the hewer of wood, the provider of food, the drudge of the ages, the farmer is beginning to realize that patience under injustice is a vice and not a virtue. He is coming to see that it is in the best interests of consumers as well as producers that agriculture should make its voice heard and its strength felt in building up marketing organizations on a co-operative basis so as to make abundance a blessing instead of a calamity to the grower and the consumer.

The farmer is in the modern world but not altogether of it. There are tendencies and institutions with which he is not in sympathy and he questions whether many of the works of so-called progress are not a curse instead of a blessing to mankind. Battleships, submarines, air bombers, machine guns, tanks, and heavy artillery are triumphs of man's inventive and mechanical ability, but not creditable to his heart and his brain. There is a great lack of intelligence in a modern world, which has mastered the problem of production so that every human being on the globe could be properly fed, decently clothed, and comfortably housed, and which is precipitated into the depths of a hopeless depression by the abundance it has created.

ORGANIZATION ESSENTIAL

Farmers can make their contribution towards a solution of the problem only through organization. Unorganized, the farmers only accentuate the problem. They lag behind the rest of the world and actually hinder efforts towards recovery. The Wheat Pool movement is a start towards proper farm organization and the soundest move Western farmers ever made. But it is only a start at that. No one can or will do the things required to be done to aid the farmer. He must do the job himself. And he must follow sound economic lines in so doing. The Wheat Pool has shown the way to organization on sensible lines. The Western farmers should not, dare not, falter in their allegiance to this Pool movement. Instead they should make it the basis, the starting off point for further advancement.

The farmer looks with rather sceptical eye on the elaborate and intricate speculative machinery which appears to be the flimsy and unstable foundation on which business and employment in the modern world depends. He cannot believe in the soundness of a system which brings about brief booms and huge fortunes for a few, followed by long depressions, each one more disastrous and lasting longer than the previous one to the many. Stability and security, and a modest share of the wealth he has helped to create, satisfies the average farmer. He would like to give his children a good education; he feels that in return for his own toil and that of his family in feeding and clothing the world, they have earned and should receive decent clothing and comfortable housing, and that a civilization which fails to provide this for its producers of food, is a blind and backward civilization.

The farmer hopes that some day a civilization will deal intelligently with the problem of distribution, as it has mastered the problem of production. He is an incurable optimist. When his crop is hailed or frozen or rusted or eaten by grasshoppers, he is confident that he will make up his losses next year. When he sells crop after crop below the cost of production, he does not fold his arms in despair; he patches up his old machinery, mends his old harnesses; his wife puts a few fresh patches on his overalls, and he doggedly goes to work to raise another crop. He has faith that some day that crop will be needed at an exchange value that will pay him to produce it. But he must do his share to bring about the desired objective.

MUST LOOK AFTER OWN MARKETING

Slowly and reluctantly the farmer has come to the decision that as the problem of distribution must be solved before there can be any return of prosperity or any security for the future, the farmer himself must look after the marketing side of his business, that a proper distributive, or marketing, system of agricultural products must be brought into operation. It must be based on equity to the producer on the one hand and the consumer on the other.

The tentacles of the speculative octopus must be torn loose from the food supply of the world. The tragedy of poverty and privation in a world crammed with plenty is the disgrace of the modern world. It will take years, it may take centuries, to bring about a saner, fairer order, but when the farmer undertakes a task, whether it is opening up a new country,

clearing a forest, or draining a swamp, he generally finishes what he has undertaken.

When the most patient, the most individualistic class in the world is goaded into joining together for mutual help and protection, it means that there are better times coming. But these organizations of farmers must be on co-operative principles. They must not be framed to amass profits but to give service, or they will make confusion worse confounded in this modern distracted world with its motto of "devil take the hindmost," with all of us in danger of drifting to the rear.

What governments have done in this country and other countries in recent years to save their farmers from ruin is a hopeful sign. It shows that while this modern world is foolish, it is not incurably insane. But there is still persisting a curiously stupid attitude, on the part of many people, that farmers should be satisfied with a bare existence, with the blessings of fresh air and sunshine, and should not aspire to the comforts and conveniences, regarded as absolute necessities in urban areas, which have added so much to the health and happiness of those able to afford them in our towns and cities. They forget that the farmer is the principal consumer of the world, that unless there is a free flow of manufactured goods to the farms, the worker in the city will be on relief.

TOWN AND COUNTRY MUTUALLY DEPENDENT

The farmer realizes his dependence on the cities. His grievance with the cities is that they do not fully understand their dependence on the country. Here is a field, fertile but poorly cultivated, where co-operation for better understanding should yield generous returns. Progress is along a spiral curve, and too often we mistake running around a circle for progress. There are blind alleys that farmers as well as city people are apt to mistake as short cuts to prosperity, but no plan of reform can be of any substantial benefit to mankind unless it is founded on justice and equity. The co-operative movement, which puts the welfare of all above the selfish interests of the few, presents such a plan.

The modern world has provided mankind with marvels of mechanical invention to utilize and bring to fruition the bounties of nature. The same intelligence applied to the distribution of these blessings, instead of allowing them to be exploited for the enrichment of a selfish few, would solve not only the pressing problems of our underpaid and overworked agricultural industry. It would banish unemployment; put an end to our idiotic and criminal wars, the tyranny of man over man, of class over class, and make this earth what we believe its Creator intended it to be: a fit earthly home for those created in His image to inherit.

ANOTHER MANITOBA MILESTONE

*Radio Address by F. W. RANSOM
Secretary Manitoba Pool Elevators Limited*

November 20th, 1935

MY subject, "Another Manitoba Milestone," is similar to the title of the interesting and romantic story of our province, written by Mrs. R. F. McWilliams. The book deals largely with persons and events, whilst my talk is the story of an institution, commonly called Manitoba Pool Elevators Limited or the Wheat Pool, for short.

The record of this body is a relation of activities of people whose occupation is the tilling of the soil and whose home is on the land. The times have been hard and the going tough during the last few years. At the same time, the organized farmers have effected changes, milestones marking the course of agriculture. These are interesting times; history is in the making.

The last five years have been a period of disastrously low prices; and inasmuch as prices largely determine our living, they have seriously affected the rural life of this country. Furthermore, Manitoba has had to bear an undue share of and suffered to a greater degree than the other provinces from the plagues of grasshoppers, drought and rust. One wonders how the farmers have stood up against it all. But always there is next year and the hope springs eternal that another crop will be better and prices will have improved. So long as hope survives, the milestones will stand as records of achievement. Should the nature of the people change and their spirit be destroyed, the milestones will become gravestones with the epitaph, "Here lies the body of a deceased rural life buried in the despair of hard times."

It is to be admitted that the recurrences of depression and exasperatingly low prices will wear down the best and bravest and in time destroy their morale, but that picture would be contrary to the experiences of the past.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Our elevator organization, Manitoba Pool Elevators, has again had a successful year in spite of the fact that a considerable portion of the province suffered almost complete crop failure. The Annual Report for the year ended July 31st, 1935, shows that our 150 elevators continue to get a good share of the grain marketed. From the first year of its inception (in 1925) Manitoba Pool Elevators has handled almost 150 million bushels of grain. The report shows a growing confidence amongst the farmers in the institution they themselves have organized, built and developed and operate. Last year a substantial contribution was made to working capital reserve of \$47,000.00. Again we not only met all operating expenses, including interest on capital advances but made the annual payment of principal. Each year sees further reduction in our indebtedness to the province; and in the past four years that has been cut down by over \$460,000.00. Substantial contributions have been made to special and contingency reserves and the annual instalment of principal and interest on the terminal at the head of the lakes has been met.

Important and necessary as it is that we should maintain our organization on a solid financial basis and pay our way, that it should be operated on sound business lines, it is equally important that it be developed as a human mechanism to promote the well being of the man on the land.

* * * *

Manitoba Pool Elevators, in conjunction with the other co-operative organizations, has played a prominent part in the agricultural life of Mani-

toba, a part designated by milestones on the road of its recorded history. Grain is the chief production of our farmers. Naturally then, this organization has had a larger responsibility in relation to the problems affecting agriculture. The faults and abuses of the marketing system were the primary cause of farmer organizations in Western Canada. Competition has resulted in price cutting and underselling. Fluctuating prices have created those uncertainties in marketing which are so disastrous to the permanence of any business structure; and the wide spread between the price the farmers get and that which the consumer pays, is another indication of the aggravated uneconomic conditions.

FEDERAL MARKETING LAW

Following the example of organized business, the farmers are coming to realize that the regulation of marketing in such a manner as will tend to eliminate these weaknesses is vital if agriculture is to be saved from ruin. Our organization joined with all the other co-operatives in the province and they, together with all the major co-operative organizations throughout the Dominion, urged marketing legislation which would help in some measure to correct the existing abuses. The Natural Products Marketing Act of 1934 is the federal legislation resulting from these organized activities and is based in all its essential features on similar legislation passed in Great Britain. The marketing schemes adopted under the Act when approved by a substantial majority are made compulsory for all the producers of the commodity affected. Already, under this legislation, twenty-one schemes have been approved and are now in operation in various parts of the dominion. They cover such commodities as tree fruits in British Columbia, fresh apples and fresh pears for export; flue cured and burley tobacco in Ontario; milk or manufactured milk products in the lower mainland of British Columbia; potatoes in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes; Canadian cheddar cheese in Ontario; apples for domestic sale in Nova Scotia, etc. This is an important milestone on which is inscribed the name of this organization along with all other co-operatives, marking an event in agricultural history.

FARM-DEBT LAWS

Again, Manitoba Pool Elevators joined with the other co-operative associations and through the Manitoba Co-operative Conference, the body carrying on our educational activities, urged that steps be taken to meet the situation threatening disaster to farmers. The debt structure overshadows all other factors which threaten the economic strength and stability of agriculture, not only in this province but in the whole of the Dominion. The memorandum presented by the Manitoba Co-operative Conference to the Banking Commission of which Lord MacMillan was chairman, gave emphasis to the decline in purchasing power as a result of the collapse in prices of all agricultural commodities. This presentation led to the setting up of an inter-provincial committee to deal further with this question of the decline in farmers' purchasing power; and the report it made to the Banking Commission led to the adoption of Federal Debt Adjustment legislation of which the most important measure is the Farmers' Creditor Arrangement Act. The measure had the support of all parties in the house. Parliament recognized the necessity for taking action to facilitate compromises and arrangements between farmers and their creditors which would afford those who are in difficult financial circumstances a substantial degree of relief. This legislation accepts the principle that the farmer who is producing the necessities of life, those things without which the nation cannot exist, is entitled to the protection of his home and security of tenure and to that end, a court is added to the judiciary which has the arbitrary power to impose compositions of the farmer's debts in accordance with his ability to pay. The law only came into effect a little more than a year ago.

* * * *

In Manitoba, as at the end of July, 1935, 1200 farmers have come before the Official Receivers under the Act and of this number 532 cases have

been referred to the Board of Review. The Board of Review had at that date made awards on 262 cases and it will interest our Manitoba farmers to know that the total amount of the original debt involved in these 262 cases was \$1,428,000.00 and that the reduction in the debt amounted to \$611,766.00 or over 42 per cent. of the original amount. These figures do not give the whole picture. Much greater reductions have been affected by way of voluntary settlements of large numbers of cases before Official Receivers, as well as very many settled by mutual agreement without recourse to official action, all of which were accelerated, no doubt, by the existence of the new legislation and the facilities it offered. On the other hand, these figures indicate that only a small section of the farmers are availing themselves of these measures, when it is realized they represent a little more than two per cent. of the estimated total mortgage indebtedness of the province. And so we set up another milestone along the road.

WHEAT BOARD

The next milestone is called "The Canadian Wheat Board," and it tells a story of an effort on the part of the organized farmers covering a period of seventeen years, to secure state control over the marketing of wheat and other grains, and it is entirely in accord with the developments which have taken place in nearly all other wheat countries. Manitoba Pool Elevators, in conjunction with the Pools of Saskatchewan and Alberta, have persistently urged during the past four years, legislation for a Canadian Grain Board to control the marketing of grain in the farmers' interests and the national well being. Under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the Wheat Board was set up with the responsibility of undertaking the orderly marketing of wheat produced in the Western wheat growing provinces. We cannot, however, consider that having in a sense, achieved our goal, the struggle is ended and we may retire from the scene of action. To the contrary, we feel that we are in the beginning of a real fight. The vested interests can hardly be expected to give up without a struggle. On the other hand, the organized farmers will persist in the course upon which they have started, realizing there can be no satisfactory solution to the problems until not only wheat, but all grains are marketed through one channel, a State Controlled Canadian Grain Board.

* * * *

These important steps upon our journey have been made, as already stated, together with the other two Wheat Pools and the other co-operatives. They indicate that we are more than just a successful grain handling organization. We are an organization promoted entirely as a means of self help, to create a better life and raise our standard of living. There is, however, in my opinion an achievement of our Pool which is entirely its own, though essentially similar in principle to that of all other healthy growing co-operative organizations. I have reference to its system of government.

DEMOCRACY IN BUSINESS

We have set up a mechanism by which the whole organization can be controlled and directed by its members, even though they live separated from one another, on farms at a distance from the centres of population. These so-called individualists have devised a plan by which they can get together, discuss and resolve on their own problems, on matters relating to the community and the affairs affecting agriculture. They are making a very marked contribution to democracy, a contribution which amid the ominous rumblings of fascism, communism and discontent is of the greatest significance. This plan is working and has been for several years. There are 150 Pool Elevator Associations in all parts of the grain growing areas of Manitoba and each of these associations has a local board which meets periodically throughout the year. Their opinions, expressed in the form of resolutions, are forwarded to the provincial board or to their representatives in the legislature or to their members of parliament, according to the needs of

the case. Just recently, each of these local elevator associations held its annual meeting; that is to say, 150 meetings were held during the last month. There will be several hundred more held during the winter and next summer; for that has been the practice every year. There is no milestone more worthy of note than this contribution to rural citizenship.

CO-OPERATION IN ACTION

These individualists who are also co-operators, represent the mainstay of the co-operative movement. They preach the philosophy and the economics of co-operation by practice. "Actions speak louder than words." This is real progress. They represent the makers of history, the pioneers blazing the trail of a new order which is slowly but surely working out the salvation of our civilization. The competitive system with all its attributes of profiteering, waste, inequities of riches and poverty, contradictions of abundance and distress, is proving itself a mockery and a failure. The motto, "Service at Cost," on all Pool elevators indicates the fundamental principle of co-operation; the goal towards which we are aiming, an order of society in which people will act like neighbors, working together for the common good; the road along which we as co-operators, are travelling and on which we have set up milestones making history.

ALBERTA GIVES AN ANSWER

*Radio Address by R. D. PURDY
General Manager Alberta Wheat Pool*

November 27th, 1935

THE series of radio broadcasts presented over this network by the Wheat Pools of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during the autumn and early winter months, as I understand it, were undertaken for the purpose of acquainting Western Canada with the progress of these organizations and also their policies and objectives. In view of the large memberships of each Pool organization, of the large sums of money invested in facilities to handle grain, of the obligations to the Provincial Governments and also of the part these Pool organizations play in the agricultural life of the West, jointly and individually, I believe these radio talks to be amply justifiable.

The subject allotted to me this evening is "Alberta Gives An Answer." In the development of this talk my intention is, not to restrict myself to the singular, but to provide answers for a number of questions which I propose to outline.

Logically the first question should be an enquiry into the affairs of the Alberta Wheat Pool and the progress it is making. Of necessity certain figures must be presented. I know how difficult it is to visualize figures given over the radio and suggest that those sufficiently interested should write in for a copy of this broadcast for a more intimate perusal. In any case I will avoid using figures as much as possible.

DURING PAST FISCAL YEAR

During the past fiscal year, ended July 15th last, the Alberta Wheat Pool, through the operation of Pool elevators, has been enabled to make a payment of \$250,000 as a reduction of the balance due on our Pool owned Terminal at Vancouver, and to make a payment of \$179,500 on the principal, and also to provide for interest amounting to approximately \$266,000 on the bonded indebtedness due the Province of Alberta arising out of 1929 Pool overpayment, all of which has been taken care of without any impairment to the current liquid position of our organization.

Further, our Association since July 15th last has made additional reduction of the principal indebtedness to the Province of Alberta, as well as on our Terminal property at Vancouver. Since July 15th, 1931, up to the present time the Alberta Wheat Pool has paid the Province of Alberta \$538,500 principal, and approximately \$1,080,000 interest, representing five annual instalments due to the Government arising out of the marketing of 1929 crop, and also have reduced the obligation on our Vancouver Terminal from \$1,750,000 to \$500,000. In addition, steady improvement has been made in the liquid position of our Organization so that at date of our last Balance Sheet, July 15th, our Current Assets showed a surplus over Current Liabilities of \$4,256,569.69.

Five years ago when the Wheat Pools of Western Canada encountered seemingly insurmountable difficulties, it was a common belief that these organizations had reached the end of their journey. The figures I have just presented to you covering the record of four years provide a different answer. Relatively similar progress has been made by our sister Pool organizations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We have striven towards the objective of

freeing the organization of debt, paying off the Governments and restoring these extensive and valuable facilities into the hands of the grain growers, free of all encumbrance. I believe you will agree with me that real progress has been made along these lines. If the support and confidence of the grain growers can be maintained and reasonable tolerance and friendliness extended by other sections of the people, our obligation to the Province will be cleared off without difficulty, and the equity of the grain growers restored.

NARROW HANDLING MARGINS

Another question arises out of the preceding discussion and that deals with elevator profits. Frankly our operations and activities tend towards reducing profits as those intimate with or engaged in grain handling can testify. Grain handling margins over the past few years have undoubtedly been narrower than over any previous similar period in the history of elevator operation in Western Canada, and which have been directly reflected to the producers in the way of advantages in grade, dockage and price, and these results in our opinion have largely been brought about through the operations of the Pool Elevator Systems of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

Any and all progress the Alberta Pool has made in a financial way has been due to large handlings. Candidly we do not aim at, or do not make, large profits considering the volume of business transacted. This must be apparent to all who make a careful and unbiased examination of our financial statements from year to year. Furthermore these statements, together with all information even to the smallest detail, are open and available to the Pool delegates who are elected representatives of the membership and through them to the members. Nothing concerning the operations of our Association is withheld. In this respect these Wheat Pools are unique organizations in the world of business.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The question now arises as to the future of these organizations and their prospective usefulness to the grain growers of Western Canada. Are they to become line elevator companies with their thoughts and ambitions centered only on handlings? Are they to fall in line with the other grain companies, as has been suggested, and divert their resources and energies from matters and problems of immediate concern to the farmers to that of profit-making? Are they to say: after all the law of supply and demand is all powerful; the price of wheat is a matter for world traders and speculators to settle and we should wash our hands of it?

Personally I would regret very much to see any such trend develop, and there is no indication that it will. While to a few grain growers it may seem that the Pools are "only elevator companies," I would say with all the emphasis at my command that there is no force in Canada today working as hard, as conscientiously and as effectively on behalf of the grain growers of the West as the Wheat Pools. We have been criticized yet we have persisted and are persisting in using our strength in support of the welfare of western agriculture. We have stood by the side of the grain growers during this depression, have taken risks on their behalf, and have had the satisfaction of knowing that a large number of these grain growers are appreciative.

BROADER SIDE OF AGRICULTURE

Permit me to turn to the broader side of agriculture in Canada for a few minutes. Canadian agriculture is a five billion dollar industry which supports nearly five million of our population directly and many others indirectly through farm purchasing power. Returns from the last census revealed the fact that expenditure of farmers in the census year totalled 957 million dollars or 75 per cent. of the gross revenue from agriculture for the year. Agriculture provides practically half the domestic market for factory products. In addition farm production forms the basis of many of our great manufacturing and processing industries to an extent which is not generally appreciated. Nine thousand Canadian plants are engaged in processing agricultural products produced in this country. These plants

report a total capital of close to 700 million dollars, employ 125,000 people, pay 125 million dollars a year in wages and salaries and produce annually products to the value of 750 million dollars.

This briefly outlines the vital importance of agriculture to Canada. Most people know, in a hazy way at least, that agriculture is Canada's basic industry. In the case of only too many this idea is but vaguely comprehended. Yet nothing is more obvious than the fact that the real cause of the depth and length of the depression in Canada was the destruction of the purchasing power of the farmers through low prices.

WHERE PURCHASING POWER HAS GONE

The gross agricultural revenue of the country in 1926 was a billion and three quarter dollars. The depression's low prices lopped a billion off that value. There is where the lost purchasing power has gone. Restore to Canadian agriculture the lost billion dollars and there will be no depression.

These facts have been well-known to the Wheat Pools but we have not been content to accept them and let the matter rest there, as have only too many Canadian people. As elevator organizations this attitude could have been adopted, with less loss, trouble and vexation, but as democratically controlled producers' co-operatives, part and parcel of the farm life of Western Canada, inaction was considered intolerable and inexcusable.

The Wheat Pool's answer has been a constant agitation and effort to prevent the Western grain growers being forced to accept world prices for their products. We have insisted year in and year out that the wheat marketing problem is a national one and to treat it otherwise would mean the impoverishing of the West.

When we see many of the great nations of the world spending hundreds of millions of dollars to support domestic agriculture against low world prices; when we see them forcing their own people to go undernourished in order that internal price levels for agricultural products should be maintained and low-priced food from Canada and elsewhere virtually banned in the process; we say Canada has not been overly generous in her treatment of her own agriculture.

We know full well that hundreds of prominent business men and others have maintained for some time that it was a mistake to hold the price of Canadian wheat above world levels. They say that our wheat must go to market at the prices the world will pay for it. Our contention has been that if such a condition is to prevail prices for what the wheat grower has to buy must come down closer to world levels, too, and until that happens, or wheat rises naturally in price, Canada must be prepared to provide tangible aid to her wheat growers. We believe that proposition to be fair and worthy of support.

It gives us some measure of satisfaction, too, whether or not all grain growers fully appreciate it, to know that largely through the efforts of our Pool organizations a fair minimum price was provided to wheat producers in connection with the marketing of 1935 crop.

ON LINES OF PURE CO-OPERATION

To return to the matter of particular concern to the Alberta Wheat Pool. It has been our policy to operate this enterprise along the lines of pure co-operation. We believe sincerely in the principles of co-operation and in its effectiveness on behalf of the grain growers. Nothing can take its place in the provision of security and preservation of hard-won rights and privileges.

We endeavor to operate the Alberta Wheat Pool as efficiently and economically as is possible so to do. The fact is that our movement is always on trial, always in the full searchlight of publicity, and always the target of subterranean attacks. We are never permitted to forget all these. And yet we feel there are compensating factors in that our organization is a useful one, a power for good and not a despoiler. We look hopefully to the future with the belief that our producers' co-operative movement is destined to fill an important place in the forward march of mankind, because of its essential virtues.

A SASKATCHEWAN SURVEY

Radio Address by GEORGE W. ROBERTSON
Secretary Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

December 4th, 1935

IN the course of a controversy which raged throughout Great Britain many years ago, the great English writer Macauley had this to say: "It is not by the intermeddling of the omniscient and omnipotent state but by the prudence and energy of the people that England has hitherto been carried forward in civilization; and it is to the same prudence and to the same energy that we now look with comfort and good hope."

I would like to suggest to my radio audience tonight that the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool organization is essentially an instrument created by the prudence and energy of the farmers of Saskatchewan in their fight to maintain a reasonable standard of living on the farm homes of this province.

This organization of which we are so justly proud is of course a commercial venture; but it is much more than that. A brief survey of its commercial activities shows that this organization, in common with its sister organizations in Alberta and Manitoba made further financial progress in 1934-35, notwithstanding reduced handlings from the short crop of 1934. Total handlings through the Pool's country elevator system plus platform loadings to Pool terminals were 55,138,000 bushels, over five million bushels less than the previous year. The Pool's proportion of all grain marketed through country elevators in Saskatchewan was 44.41 percent, the third successive season that some increase in percentage had been shown.

Smaller handlings meant reduced earnings, but even so net earnings of \$171,000 remained to be transferred to reserve after allowing full depreciation on all assets of the Company and interest on the 1929 overpayment account from the total operating earnings of \$2,118,000.

GROWING STRENGTH

As an indication of its growing financial strength, the working capital position of the combined Saskatchewan Wheat Pool organization at the beginning of the present season was shown as \$6,820,000, an increase of about \$800,000 from a year ago.

Since the large Co-operative Elevator Company purchase was completed two years ago, only one direct liability remains against the organization, namely, that incurred under the 1929 overpayment guaranteed by the provincial government. The agreement with the government calls for repayment of a principal sum of \$13,752,000, together with interest, in 19 equal annual amortized payments. All payments have been made under this agreement, and at July 31 last the principal had been reduced to \$12,272,000. It may be worth while adding that altogether \$4,111,000 in principal and interest has been paid to date to the province on this account.

Besides all this, the organization was able to enlarge its country elevator system by 14 new houses with approximately 450,000 bushels additional storage capacity. The system now numbers 1082 country elevators, all owned and operated by the growers.

JUNIOR CO-OPERATORS

While looking at Saskatchewan's record for the year, a word might be said of the junior co-operative work which the organization regards as

an increasingly important phase of its activities, because we look to the farm boys and girls of today to carry on and develop the co-operative tradition tomorrow with all that tradition implies in the way of good farming and good citizenship. Further, the nature of the practical work engaged in by juniors with Pool assistance is such that much valuable knowledge is being gathered as to the kinds of grain best suited to given localities of the province. For example, the Wheat Pool organization has been assisting in promoting junior grain club work through the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan. Also in co-operation with the University and with the Dominion Experimental Farms and the National Barley Committee, it launched last spring a barley variety testing project in which 320 junior growers took part for a single year program and 32 adult growers for a three-year program; data of very real value is expected to result from these experiments.

BAY ROUTE

Then of course there is the relation of the Saskatchewan Pool to the Hudson Bay route. Having always regarded this direct outlet to overseas markets and sources of supply as of significance to western agriculture, the organization went in at the beginning to do what it could in helping develop Churchill as a western port. This past season was somewhat disappointing largely because of a most difficult wheat marketing situation. However, out of the season's total shipments of 2,407,000 bushels of wheat the Pool supplied 2,096,000, thereby maintaining its leadership in the Churchill grain export trade since 1931 to date.

WELFARE CHIEF OBJECT

These are some of the highlights of the past year as far as the purely domestic operations of the organization are concerned. As we have noted, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool shows continued improvement. Yet in quoting figures attesting to that fact I did so with some diffidence. It is a splendid thing that the Pool as a commercial institution should be steadily recovering from that severe blow dealt in the fall of 1929—the earliest of a series of punishing blows suffered in turn by almost every commercial institution in the land. But—so long as insecurity is the lot of each of our individual shareholders, the men who built the Pool and through loyalty assure its success, then the organization as a whole must feel that its work is still very incomplete indeed. This co-operative enterprise exists not to show a balance sheet of so many millions of dollars of working capital, so many hundreds of thousands in net earnings, or to proclaim from the house-tops that it is the biggest grain handling concern in the world. All these things are true, and they are desirable as means to an end—nothing more. And that end is the welfare of men and women in the farm homes of Saskatchewan.

A GENERATION OF GROWTH

We should remember that the co-operative movement in Western Canada has over a generation of steady growth behind it. It is old enough now to have a tradition. That tradition is service and self-help. When the settlers of the Qu'appelle Valley took steps to organize in defense of their industry, agriculture, they started a movement which has been widening in its influence ever since, changing in form from time to time as a new set of conditions arose, but never for a moment abandoning its original objective—that is, to assure the producer a reward commensurate with the vital service he performs for humanity. The movement will continue to devote itself to that objective and, as long as farmers keep heart and remain devoted to their own interests, it will never falter in the struggle to overcome every obstacle laid in its path.

SOUND AND WELL TRIED

In this struggle we workers in this great social movement know we can count on the support of farmers in increasing numbers as they come to appreciate more fully how essential organization is to their welfare and how

sound and well-trying is the type of organization which they have set up to achieve their aims. From those people who are not farmers but who realize that their own interests are bound up intimately with those of the farmer, we can surely expect a sympathetic attitude. The agricultural co-operative movement seeks to destroy nothing which is worth preserving; it is wholly constructive. Its methods are not violent but persuasive. It is an association of individuals working together to improve their position in society, to obtain and enjoy for themselves and their families a just share of the abundance for which they are so largely responsible in this modern world.

AGRICULTURE THE SOUL

To those who are not yet fully aware of the tremendous significance of agriculture as the bulwark of society, I should like to refer to the views of two men who were as far apart as the poles in many respects but who both had first class minds. One of them was Napoleon, who at the close of his career wrote from St. Helena: "And yet how much progress we have made and what clearness of thinking has become possible as a result of my recognition of this order of importance in the nation's activities—namely, agriculture, industry, and foreign trade. Agriculture is the soul, the foundation of the Kingdom; industry ministers to the comfort and happiness of the population; foreign trade is the superabundance—it allows of the due exchange of the surplus of agriculture and industry." Notice, he placed agriculture first, calling it the "soul" of the nation.

A century later, George Russell, better known as "A.E.," Irish poet and philosopher, a blend of practical co-operator and mystic, a man great in intellect as in stature, devoted the best of his gifts to advancing the cause of agriculture in his own land and abroad. On one occasion he uttered these striking words: "It is to the interest of a nation to preserve its agricultural life at or above 20 per cent. If you have a country with 90 per cent. urban and 10 per cent. on the farms, you are going to have trouble." National decay, he went on, sets in when its agricultural life declines. In passing, I can commend A.E.'s book, "The National Being," as a classic of the agricultural co-operative movement, "heavenly vision and earthly reality," some one has called it.

Thus it is that the work we have to do in this western country is of supreme importance. Our task is to raise up agriculture and thereby serve the best interests of the nation as a whole. It is to this task that the farmers' co-operative organization, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, is dedicated. The path which it must follow is not a first grade highway. Difficulties and disappointments we may expect. It was so in the beginning, and it will continue to be so. The difficulties faced by the pioneers of this movement were the direct means of developing a type of courage amongst the farmers of this province which has enabled them to carry on during the past five difficult years—the type of courage which has enabled the co-operative movement to rise above rebuffs and disappointments.

I am satisfied that the co-operative movement must continue to grow and increase, in spite of external opposition drawn either from the antagonism of self-interest, or from incomplete understanding.

COURAGE, VITAL FACTOR

No doubt many of my audience expected me to discuss tonight a position which has developed today affecting the marketing of wheat which is of vital interest to wheat producers in these prairie provinces.

On second thought, I hope you will realize that this subject is without the scope of my address this evening. But this I can say, that the courage which has been displayed throughout the development of the movement in this province since its inception is still the most vital factor in our movement.

In his rectorial address at St. Andrew's University, Sir J. M. Barrie told the students that "Courage comes all the way," and he quoted from an ancient ballad the words of a doughty Scottish knight rallying his men after he had been struck down in the heat of battle:

"Fight on my men, says Sir Andrew Barton,
I am hurt but I am not slain;
I'll lie me down and bleed awhile
And then I'll rise and fight again."

Obstacles will develop in the pathway of progress, but organized agriculture can take courage and with renewed energy set to work to overcome them.

In bidding you goodnight, I want to close with Barrie's closing salutation:

"Courage, my friends, and greet the unseen with a cheer. Fight on."

A COAST TO COAST ORGANIZATION

Radio Address by J. T. HULL

Education Director Manitoba Co-operative Conference

December 11th, 1935

AS far back as history takes us there have been two attitudes in society toward the class which tilled the land, tended the herds and furnished the primary necessities of life. Poets have sung, philosophers have written and statesmen have spoken in praise of the life which was lived close to kindly mother nature, in the free, pure air, under the blue sky and amid scenes of sylvan beauty. There are still people who do that. Others, in closer touch with reality, have seen that life under the sterner aspects of nature, have noticed the uncertainties and vicissitudes of fortune attending the occupation, the misery that it suffers from the unkindness of nature and the worse misery caused by the unkindness of man. Much as the farmer may suffer from the unkindness of nature, it does not begin to compare with what he has suffered from the unkindness of man.

OLD YET NEW

Four thousand years or so ago an Egyptian father warned his son who declared his intention to go farming, that his crops would be destroyed by worms, hippopotami, mice, locusts and sparrows, and what he managed to save from their ravages would be taken by robbers, money lenders and tax gatherers. He advised him to become a lawyer! Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

There were others of course. One landowner of about 2,000 B.C., has gained a place in history by a document he left in which he says:

"There was no peasant whom I evicted, there was no herdsman whom I expelled, there was no gang overseer whose people I took away for unpaid taxes. . . . When years of famine came I preserved the people alive and when again the fields were rich in grain and all things, I did not collect the arrears of the field."

He seems to have been a real benevolent landlord—no foreclosures, evictions, tax penalties or collection of arrears. Suppose we say he set up the first relief and debt adjustment system.

But then we turn to that other ancient empire, Babylonia, and in the oldest known code of laws in the world, the code of Hammurabi, promulgated about 4,000 years ago, we find the following clause:

"If a man is liable for interest, and the God Adad has flooded his field or the harvest has been destroyed or the corn has not grown through lack of water; then in that year he shall not pay corn to his creditor. He shall dip his tablet in water and the interest of that year he shall not pay."

You get that—no crop, no interest. A law like that would have helped wonderfully in the dried-out, eaten-out and rusted-out areas of the prairie provinces during the last four years, wouldn't it? Three years ago the new state of Iraq, lineal descendant of Babylonia, passed a law to the effect that where the owner of the land advanced seed to his tenant and the crop was destroyed the debt of the tenant for the seed was automatically wiped out.

FIRST FARM CREDITORS' ACT

And then there is Solon, say 2,500 years ago. In our legislative buildings here in Winnipeg we have a statue of Solon among the great legislators of the world. What is Solon's claim to fame and immortality? He wiped out

all farm mortgages and started the agriculture of Greece out on a clean financial sheet.

The mortgage stones that covered her by me
Removed, the land that was a slave is free.

Solon enacted the first farmers' creditors arrangement act, and it was a real one, wasn't it now?

And now you may ask why all this rummaging into the files of the ancient past. Simply to make a connection and run a straight line 4,000 years long and show you agriculture at the beginning—you know all about what it is like at this end of the line. Do you notice much difference—hardship, exploitation, indebtedness, relief and debt adjustment at both ends of the line—four thousand years of it.

And why? Let me go back four thousand years again and quote you an Egyptian proverb: "The poor man hath no strength to save himself from him that is stronger than he."

There you have the key to all the injustices endured by the man on the land in the thousand yesterdays and today. Agriculture has been the slave of civilization because its very nature made it socially weak and the easy prey of the socially strong. The boast of the Egyptian lord, the legislation of Hammurabi and Solon tell us by implication of the normal lot of the tiller of the soil, because he was weak but necessary.

The position is not much better today so far as agriculture helping itself is concerned, but never before in history have governments made such efforts as they are making today to raise and improve the economic status of their farmers. Legislation and government aid are of importance, but the most important question is: How is agriculture to be made strong enough to save itself? The answer to that question is clear, definite and imperative—by organization and co-operation. The need for that is being realized everywhere, but it is no easy task to take a vocation which in most countries is strongly individualistic, indeed in some places atomistic, and induce it to break with tradition, custom and habit, and follow an entirely different course of action. It is, however, being done and the break in some countries has been not only significant but even spectacular.

MAKE IT NATIONAL

Agricultural co-operation has made substantial advances in Canada in the last decade, but the co-ordination required to give a national character to agricultural policy has been absent. We had once the Canadian Council of Agriculture, but it died, and the need it met has become even more insistent. It was to meet this need and give unity to agriculture in pressing its claim to a substantial place in the economic structure of the country that the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture was formed in Toronto two weeks ago.

The first move in this direction was made in British Columbia last February. Agricultural organizations in that province had met and formed the British Columbia Chamber of Agriculture. That body sent out invitations to a meeting to be held in Ottawa last February. The outcome of that meeting was the formation of a committee with representatives from each province in the Dominion to diffuse information with respect to the proposed Canadian Chamber of Agriculture and secure good representation at a meeting to be held in Toronto in November.

In the meantime the B.C. people, representative of the fruit, vegetable, milk and dairying business, had learned that the agricultural co-operatives in Manitoba were united in the Manitoba Co-operative Conference and those of Saskatchewan in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Conference. Thus the agricultural co-operative movement was provincially organized in three western provinces. In July, on the initiative of Manitoba Co-operative Conference, a meeting was held in Calgary attended by representatives of agricultural co-operative organizations from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. At this meeting it was agreed to form the Western Agricultural Conference for the purpose of discussing and getting uniform action on specifically western questions. The meeting at Toronto was set

for November 26th, 27th and 28th, and on November 23rd a meeting of the Western Agricultural Conference was held in Winnipeg and the matters to come before the meeting at Toronto were discussed and proposals adopted.

FOR CO-ORDINATION

The meeting at Toronto was a pronounced success from the standpoint of attendance and interest. Representatives of agricultural organizations were there from every province in the Dominion. The need for a national body to speak authoritatively on behalf of agriculture and to give unity and coherence to agricultural policy was immediately recognized and the meeting went on to create the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture with the following objects:

1. To co-ordinate the efforts of the different branches of agriculture for the purpose of promoting their common interests through collective action.

2. To render such services to those engaged in agricultural pursuits as conditions may justify.

3. To assist in formulating and promoting national agricultural policies to meet changing national and international economic conditions.

Membership in the Chamber is confined to national, provincial and interprovincial federations and organizations of bona fide producers of agricultural products. Please note the "bona fide producers of agricultural products."

A provisional board was set up composed of one director from each of the following provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec. In addition a director was elected to represent the Canadian Dairy Farmers' Federation and one to represent the Canadian Horticultural Council, both being organizations national in scope. The president of the provisional board of the new organization is Mr. J. H. Wesson, vice-president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Mr. Wesson is also president of the Western Agricultural Conference. The vice-presidents are Mr. H. H. Hannam, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario, and Mr. R. H. M. Bailey, Edmonton, president of the Alberta Milk Producers' Association. The secretary is Mr. H. B. Cowan, Peterboro, secretary of the Canadian Dairy Farmers' Federation. The board has power to add to its numbers so as to give representation to every province when properly organized.

THE POOR MAN'S STRENGTH

The first task of the Chamber is to effect in the eastern provinces as complete organization as exists in the west and that task will be tackled immediately. When that work is complete the organization will be incorporated and placed on a permanent basis.

Through this organization Canadian agriculture from coast to coast will be united, but it remains to say that the setting up of a board of directors and the securing of a charter is not enough. Every farmer in the Dominion ought to be a member of at least one organization affiliated with the Canadian Chamber. The Chamber ought to be in a position to speak, not nominally, but actually for the whole body of farmers. That again is only to say that all farmers should be members of agricultural co-operative associations both for selling the produce of their farms and buying the requirements of the farm and the home. A large and widely scattered body of producers cannot possibly market their produce with advantage individually; to enter the market on equal terms with dealers they must organize. Nor is it possible to link advantages with responsibilities and obligations except by efficient organization. It is impossible even to gain the full benefit of legislative action without organization of the beneficiaries to help enforce the law. We cannot have an efficient economic order unless everyone assumes his share of the responsibilities of it.

Organization and co-operation, I repeat, give us the key to the economic problems of Canadian agriculture; without them it will never achieve its rightful place in the economic edifice of the nation. For—and I go back again to the Egyptian moralist of 4,000 years ago—"The poor man hath no strength to save himself from him that is stronger than he."

CARRYING THE FARM RISK

Radio Address by **GEORGE BENNETT**
Director Alberta Wheat Pool

December 18th, 1935

ALL humanity is continually searching for as great a measure of security and stability as it is possible to obtain. This is a difficult objective to reach because the world is in a continual process of flux and change. But always efforts are being put forth by nations and by whole classes of people as well as individuals towards developing plans and arrangements to ensure at least a measure of protection for themselves. Every effort is made to eliminate the risk and to pass laws and use other means to provide security.

Unfortunately for them the people who occupy the farms of the world have been late in extending their efforts to provide protection for themselves. This applies more particularly to the farmers of those countries which are large food exporters. As a consequence these people are delayed and hampered in every possible way in their struggles to set up a measure of self-protection and their efforts are misunderstood and misconstrued.

The grain growers of Canada provide a notable example of the point I am trying to make. For thirty years I have been a farmer in Alberta and during that period I have seen the slow and painful efforts the grain growers have been making towards the end of obtaining security. Undoubtedly progress has been made but always in the face of the hardest opposition and with comparatively little sympathy from other classes who have adroitly put themselves in more secure positions. The fact that agriculture is our basic industry and that the wealth produced by the western farmers has proven to be a veritable Eldorado for this Dominion of Canada has not altered the attitude of those not engaged in agriculture towards this problem to any great extent. Thus the conviction has gradually been brought home to those who have spent many years in this struggle that if the farmers are going to accomplish anything worth while towards providing security they must do the job themselves and place little reliance on others.

CO-OPERATORS ARE PERSISTENT

Those farmers who have put forth such immense efforts to build up organizations for this purpose have met with many disappointments. They have laboriously constructed organization after organization. They have chosen men from their own ranks and from other classes to fill positions of responsibility and they have sought to obtain measures of government assistance, all towards the one end. But they have seen some of these organizations go down to ruin, others drift away from the ideals of their founders, and individuals, when placed in high position, sometimes forget the environment from which they sprang. Nevertheless the ideas of the men on the land have persisted and will persist until a greater measure of justice is obtained for the farm people of this country.

The speculative system of grain marketing has always been mistrusted by a large percentage of the grain growers of Western Canada. We have been repeatedly informed that this system is the best that has ever been devised and that the function is performed speedily, efficiently and economically. But the fact remains that the risk lies exclusively with the producer of grain and there is no provision for price protection commensurate with the importance of the grain growers in the Canadian economy. The speculative system of grain marketing is nothing more nor less than a daily auction of grain.

No other class in Canada is willing to have its wages, salaries or remuneration fixed on the basis of what auction prices would bring from day to day. That is what the grain farmers are asked and even urged to submit to.

To bring this matter down to a simple comparison let us imagine that prices of all goods and services were fixed on speculative markets from day to day. Then before a person bought a pair of shoes, a suit of clothes, a kitchen stove, some barb wire or a threshing machine, he would go down to the central market and see what the price, as fixed by supply and demand, was for that day. What would manufacturers or distributors think of such an idea? What would a dentist think if the price for pulling a tooth was fixed upon the number of people who wanted teeth pulled on a particular day and the number of dentists who were anxious to get work to do? Apply the same method to the business and professional world and complete chaos would result. Things are not done in that way by the well-organized business world, yet primary producers are expected to be satisfied with such a system of marketing!

SPECULATIVE SYSTEM BREAKDOWN

To make matters worse, during the depression years the speculative system of marketing has been hampered by a multiplicity of tariffs and restrictive laws which prevent the free passage of wheat from exporting to importing countries. This resulted in a wide disparity of the prices for that commodity in different countries which caused a piling up of wheat supplies, a lowering of consumption, and an absence of interest on the part of speculators. Plainly, what resulted was a breaking down of the system. This is my own conclusion and also the conclusion of many others who have given this matter some extensive study.

I would remind those people who are listening in that wholesale development of the speculative interest in Canada is comparatively recent. I know that prior to the Great War buying and selling of options was largely confined to elevator companies, grain men, millers and a few others speculatively inclined. When the 1919 Wheat Board was formed it had no trouble in taking over future options because the volume involved was small. The real outburst of speculation which developed in Canada in the twenties was a somewhat new experience in the history of grain marketing in Canada.

We are told speculation maintains prices but the trouble we in Canada find is that it maintains them at too high a level some times and then again at too low a level. Eminent British authorities are of the opinion that speculation in wheat in North America results in lowered prices over the long term. The Earl of Crawford gave his opinion in 1930 that year in and year out the gambling in Chicago tends to reduce the price of wheat to the consumer in Great Britain. The late Sir Herbert Robson, one-time president of the London Corn Trade Association, was of the same opinion. Lord Crawford's exact words were: "What makes people gamble is thinking they know when they don't. When a dozen grain merchants are in and out of the market nobody knows what is going on and people gamble and lose and the British on the whole get their grain cheaper in consequence."

FARMERS CARRY THE RISK

This evidence and our own experience over many years creates doubts in our minds of the substantial nature of a marketing system resting on such insecure foundations. I have never been carried away by fallacies nor do I believe in seeking to destroy any good system, but I am honestly convinced that insecurity and loss will be the lot of the grain growers of Western Canada just so long as they must depend exclusively on the speculative system of grain marketing. The enormous risk of the whole structure rests on the backs of the farmers in these three western provinces, and it is too great a burden for them to carry.

Another feature of this problem is deserving of attention. During the last twelve years there have been extensive changes in the method of

farmers' marketing of their grain. The introduction of the combine and the automobile truck has completely changed the old methods and speeded up deliveries to an unprecedented extent. The trucks are principally responsible for this change. Those of us who have been on western farms for many years recall that fifteen or twenty years ago delivering grain from the farms was a winter's job. Teams were used to haul grain tanks mounted on sleighs or wheels and whose loads ran from 80 to 100 bushels and it would take a day to deliver one load a distance of ten miles. Now we have trucks which deliver as much as 250 bushels ten miles and back within an hour. The result is that our crop of grain goes on the market in a veritable ocean every autumn. Something like three-quarters of the total is delivered in three months.

The hedging problem created by this change is a big one. In fact no one can say just how the open speculative market can stand up against a problem of hedging of, say 200 million bushels of grain in three months' time. This has never really been tried and the reason is that in the early years of the Pools at least half of the grain of Western Canada was unhedged, relieving the market of that pressure. Later on the Federal Government through John I. McFarland relieved the market by taking hedges on the Government's account. Now we have the Wheat Board which does not hedge its receipts, relieving the market of a terrific strain. What would happen if there was no auxiliary strength is problematical. In my own opinion, farmers would see complete demoralization.

WHEAT PROBLEM COMPLEX

We farmers do not contend that the very low prices of wheat experienced during the depression is due exclusively to the system of futures trading. We are well aware that many important factors exist, each of which was partly responsible for the situation. The undoubted excess of supply over demand, the very severe world-wide economic depression, extremely high tariffs, milling restrictions and other factors all had important bearing on the problem. But we do contend that an additional contributory factor to the ruinous prices was the failure of the institution of speculation to assume the risk-carrying function so frequently attributed to it. We had a situation where more wheat was offered for sale than there was consumptive or speculative demand to absorb without sharp recessions in price. It was on the basis of this assumption that the Wheat Pools started the agitation which finally resulted in the formation of a Wheat Board and we are hopeful that this board will be a permanent institution in Canada in order that the grain growers may not be compelled to assume the full burden of the price risk.

From time to time you will hear or read that the wheat problem has been solved. But the truth is that no one knows. And the small takings of Europe for the past few years looks ominous. Fear of war is at the root of the problem. Had Italy not strained every nerve to increase wheat production over the past ten years when her plans for territorial expansion were developing she would now be under threat of starvation if League sanctions were invoked. Every European power is fully aware of the peril of future wars and will not agree to cutting down the domestic production of the chief item of their peoples' food, namely wheat, even although the process is expensive and uneconomic.

In view of this situation we as Pools maintain it is the duty of the Federal Government to maintain The Canadian Wheat Board as a measure of protection to our western wheat growers. It is the only means of price insurance available to us.

Good night, and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

THE FARMER COMING INTO HIS OWN

*Radio Address by J. H. WESSON
Vice-President Saskatchewan Wheat Pool*

January 8th, 1936

THE title given me tonight for the subject of my address, "The Farmer Coming Into His Own," should, I think, be followed by a question mark, because there are a lot of things, that must happen, both nationally and internationally, before the farmer can really come into his own. What is justly his own is a fair share of the wealth he is producing, an equitable return for the service he renders society by feeding the world and producing the wool and cotton and linen and silk to clothe the world.

It is quite true that in every civilized country today governments have entirely changed their national policy towards their agricultural industry. Governments have finally forsaken their centuries old attitude of laissez faire towards the most difficult problem farmers have always had to deal with, the marketing of their produce at a fair exchange value for the products of industry required on the farm.

MAIN CAUSE OF DEPRESSION

World governments have made this right-about-face change in their policy for two reasons. The first reason is that all civilized countries have recognized as the main cause of the world depression and its continuance, the decline in the purchasing power of the farmer. They have therefore enacted measures to put the price received by their farmers for the products of their farms more on a parity with the price of industrial products for which those from the farms are exchanged.

FORCED REFORMS

The second reason is that governments which are put into power and maintained there in all democratic countries by public opinion, were forced to take action by the rising tide of revolt among their rural population against agriculture being the permanent and poorly paid drudge, the hewers of wood and drawers of water for all other classes of people. While governments might ultimately have been forced to restore a better balance between agriculture and industry to prevent the ruin of both, it has been the organization of farmers into co-operative organizations fighting for the rights of the farming class, which has been the powerful influence behind the throne hastening these reforms which are necessary to save our civilization.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

A significant demonstration of this changed attitude was the Wheat Board legislation enacted at the last session of the Canadian parliament without a dissenting vote by members of any party. For fourteen years the farmers of Western Canada had kept up the fight for a national wheat board and a return to the farmer bearing some relation to the cost of production. As the marketing of our wheat, at living prices to the producers, is vital not only to the solvency of the West but to the prosperity of our Dominion, I am sure my friends would not forgive me if I did not have something to say about the wheat question at this time.

Any of my remarks about the wheat situation in Canada today should not be interpreted as destructive criticism either of the federal government or the Wheat Board, but rather as the views of one of the organized producers who considers the welfare of the producer as paramount and the prosperity of all other interests who seek to make profits out of the handling of our grain as secondary.

MISREPRESENTATION

First let me say that it is deplorable that in its hostility to organized producers and their co-operative grain handling organizations, the Sifton press should carry on such a campaign of misrepresentation and calumny against the Canadian Wheat Pools. In the Saskatoon Star of December 31st, I noticed an article by Miss Cora Hind, dated from London:

"In pre-Pool days the British millers used approximately two-thirds Canadian wheat in their flour. This percentage, over a decade, has dropped until millers were using as little as fifteen to twenty per cent. Canadian wheat a few months ago." What is the truth regarding this wheat picture in the United Kingdom? You will find, if you look up the Canadian Grain Trade Year Book, issued by the Sanford Evans Statistical Service, that from 1919 until 1924—before the Pool started to operate—the average for the five years of Canadian wheat imported into Great Britain represented only 20.78 per cent. of the total and not two-thirds as Miss Hind points out in her article. The flour mix with British wheat would make the percentage smaller. From 1924 until 1935 the average imports of Canadian wheat into Great Britain have represented an average of 32.9 per cent. of the total. It is interesting to note that during the last two years Canada has enjoyed nearly 35 per cent. of the total and what is more outstanding, that in the first four months of the present crop year, Canada has supplied 38 per cent. of the total imported by Great Britain. It is a strange thing to me that the Winnipeg Free Press and its two satellites in Saskatchewan have to depart from the truth to bolster up their ideas of what the wheat policy should be. Apparently, anything goes that would tend to build up an argument to support their distorted policies, based very largely on economics that might fit in very well with the 19th century viewpoint, but are now hopelessly out of date. Let me make this statement definitely, that while the Sifton press is, at the present time, trying to view the whole wheat situation from the standpoint of so-called change of the selling policy of the Canadian Wheat Board, the only real change that has taken place, since last August, in the world wheat situation is the change of policy by Argentina in placing the price of wheat to her growers at approximately 90 cents per bushel.

The change of policy in the Argentine is rather significant because Argentina has taken the action she has to protect her producers because of a small crop when all of the other principal wheat producing countries took the same action because of a surplus.

WHEAT EXPORTS

A good many statements have been in the press recently regarding sales made by the Wheat Board. The thing that should interest the people who are reading these press statements is whether wheat is actually being exported any faster at the present time than previously. You will find that the first week in December visible wheat in Canada was approximately 267,000,000 bushels. The first week in January 261,000,000 bushels. The difference between these two figures plus small country deliveries is all that has been exported since. It is only fair to say that sales have also probably been made for future shipment. Without access to the records which would show the number of ships booked to carry this tonnage it is impossible to say what these sales would amount to. Selling wheat at the rate of 23,000,000 bushels per day does not necessarily put wheat out of Canada or put it into consumption. If the press report was true that 12,000,000 bushels were exported overnight the day of the Argentine announcement, then what about the

other 11,000,000 bushels? It has been announced the policy of the Board is to give to the exporters either wheat or hedges on the basis of overnight sales at a fraction over the previous day's close. If this is correct, I cannot see how demand for wheat can raise prices. If this demand had to go to the market to fill its requirements and bid for it, then demand itself would raise price levels, at least to a parity with Argentine. This policy does nothing to stop the price from going down but certainly it is not conducive to raising it up.

There has been a lot of discussion ever since last summer regarding a short position on the Winnipeg market. According to reports the combined stocks of wheat and short options were 30,000,000 bushels in excess of the visible supply which meant a short position. When Argentine announced her policy, it was stated in the press that wheat buyers came to Canada panicky to buy wheat. Take my word for it, the buyers of real wheat were not nearly so panicky as the people who were short 30,000,000 bushels on the Winnipeg market. The statement has been made if there has been anything to the argument that Canada should meet Argentine in its price cutting program over several years, there is now no necessity for Canada to sell its wheat below Argentine wheat, especially when neither Russia nor Australia are eager to press sales at low value.

It would appear that the statistical wheat position this year is such that an adequate sales policy fitting supply to actual demand for Canadian wheat should not only get rid of the surplus without loss to the taxpayers of Canada but should also leave a margin of surplus to be paid as a final payment to those growers who have delivered wheat to the Board this year.

WHEAT PROBLEM NOT SOLVED

Don't let us fool ourselves—the problem of wheat is not solved—except for the present year. With normal crops in this and other exporting countries—if Europe continues to produce at the rate of the past few years—the problem will be just as acute as ever. Farmers will come into their own when they regard volume produced only as of secondary importance, and when they recognize as of first importance the unit value of the bushel of wheat. There are still those who believe that it is better to sell 200 million bushels at 50 cents rather than 100 million bushels at a dollar, or to bring it down to the individual, better to sell two bushels at 50 cents a bushel rather than one bushel at a dollar, basis Fort William. At the country elevator, the \$1.00 a bushel gives the farmer 80 cents and two bushels at 50 cents give him a net of 60 cents, not counting extra production costs.

The farmers will be coming into their own when other classes of people from coast to coast recognize that the welfare of the entire population depends on the purchasing power of the western wheat grower. Tariffs or no tariffs, dumping duties or no dumping duties, our British Columbia friends depend on the prairie market for their fruit. Without purchasing power there is no market. Go further east, manufacturers and industrialists in the east depend on the purchasing power of the west to purchase their products. Without that purchasing power there becomes more unemployment and where there is more unemployment in the east there becomes less purchasing power to buy those goods produced by eastern agriculturists and consumed in the domestic market.

MUST TAKE LEAD

Farmers will come into their own when they realize that they must take the lead themselves through their own organizations, in securing a square deal for agriculture. Farmers in every country must recognize the necessity of getting together internationally—and what country is better able to take the lead than Canada? They should encourage the farmers of other countries in the world to organize strongly in their own interests so that any government must recognize reasonable demands they make for their profession. The question of wheat will only be solved internationally

by the getting together of these growers of different countries of the world to agree that whatever volume of the commodity can be sold will be sold at prices which will give a decent standard of living to those who produce.

A GOOD RELIABLE PEASANTRY

And yet there is a die-hard minority who believe that the farmer should continue to have his nose ground into the dust! Just recently an eminent sociologist stated that to put agriculture on a comparable basis with industry was not only futile but dangerous. That in the case of distress of farm families, the reasonable thing for governments to do was to give them a dole as the cheapest way out. He went on to say that what we really needed in this country was a good reliable peasantry as insurance against social disorder. I wonder what our farmers think about that?

The farmers will come into their own when all groups of people, as well as governments, recognize that the co-operative movement is the only sound basis on which any national policy can be built, and that can guarantee a decent standard of living for all of our people, which they have every right to expect.

SHOWING THE WAY

Radio Address by J. JESSE STRANG
Director Alberta Wheat Pool

January 15th, 1936

THE subject assigned to me will perhaps raise the question in the minds of some of our listeners, "On what do we base our ability to undertake to deal with such a subject?" Most of the officials and all of the directors of the Pools of Western Canada have been connected with the co-operative movement for years and some of them since its inception. Consequently we feel it our duty to offer the benefit of our experience to the general public and especially to those farmers who are in the unfortunate position of being subjected to all kinds of distorted information created and dispensed by those whose interests are best served by keeping the farmers divided and operating in competition with each other. And we sincerely hope and trust that the governments of the day, both federal and provincial, and others holding positions of authority will give us an opportunity to work with them in their endeavor to find a solution of the wheat problem.

AT THE CROSSROADS

Wheat farmers of Western Canada stand at the crossroads at the present time. They face momentous times and must make decisions the force and effect of which will be felt for years to come. In view of the vital nature of present problems it is advisable that every grain grower should give careful consideration to outstanding phases of this difficult question.

Summed up, the problem of the wheat grower amounts to this:

- (1) To continue the production of a high-quality wheat.
- (2) To be assured of getting a price for this product that will support the family in decency and pay interest, debts and taxes.

Some people think the first paragraph is the most important, judging by their attitude, but to us farmers who have to live on the land the matter of remuneration we receive from our labor is of great moment. And any suggested solution of the wheat problem which does not give an important place to price will likely prove inadequate and, in the end, unsatisfactory to the growers.

It is my intention to elaborate on the two phases of the wheat problem I have outlined, presenting the viewpoint of the Wheat Pools as it occurs to me. First I will discuss the matter of quality production. As every farmer knows, the production of a quality product is highly desirable. Every farmer of my acquaintance wants to produce good quality wheat. Only too often hail, frost and drouth, forces with which ordinary humans cannot combat, upset well-planned efforts towards that end. But good seed must be sown and the chance of elemental damage taken. Good seed is the basis of good quality.

A GOOD QUALITY PRODUCT

The Wheat Pool movement in Western Canada is quite well aware of the importance of a good product. The record of the years shows that the Pools have done their full share in carrying out policies calculated to maintain the standard of Canadian wheat abroad.

Speaking for the Alberta Wheat Pool, the work it has undertaken in the Junior Wheat Club movement, in conjunction with the federal and

provincial departments of agriculture, has been quite important. In fact it can be said without fear of competent contradiction that the Junior Wheat Club movement is the most strikingly successful of all movements undertaken to improve the farmers' seed supply. The federal department of agriculture and the department of agriculture of Alberta have given generously of the time of their officials as well as money grants, and we give both departments ample credit for the invaluable contributions made, and assistance given.

In the five years these Alberta wheat clubs have been in operation, the boy members have produced several million bushels of high quality seed wheat. It has been found that 75 per cent. of the wheat produced by the junior plots has been disposed of to wheat growers in the neighborhood for seed. Officials who act as inspectors of these club plots report the quality of the general seeding in the district around a club centre is much higher than in the districts without clubs. Last year upwards of one thousand young farmers, scattered the length and breadth of the province of Alberta, were engaged in this work, so that one can readily visualize the steady improvement in seed production going on from year to year.

Many of the boys engaged in this work learn something of the fundamentals of pure seed production and are already well on the way towards becoming experts in this necessary and specialized business. Two of our wheat club boys from Grande Prairie in the Peace River country, Arthur Mackey and Justyn Rigby, won first prize for junior grain judging at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Most of the boys receive an insight into the technical side of agriculture through the club work, an opportunity denied to the great majority of their dads. As a consequence their interest in cereal production and agriculture is stimulated. The contact they make with trained technical agriculturists provides an education not available to the ordinary farm boy.

As a result of this junior seed club movement the oncoming generation of wheat farmers in Alberta will be much better equipped than their fathers to produce high quality field crops and their farming methods will be found soundly built upon the proper appreciation of the vital importance of pure clean seed. Having an intimate personal knowledge of this junior wheat club project I can testify to its splendid achievements and possibilities for greater usefulness in the future. In the sister prairie provinces similar undertakings have been assisted or carried on by the Wheat Pools with equally excellent results. Not knowing the details as I do in Alberta, I cannot fully discuss them, but I have sufficient information to justify the statement that no similar movement has the same possibilities, as we are working with the oncoming generation of farmers—the youth of today who will be the men of tomorrow.

A FAIR PRICE

Next comes the matter of price in which is involved marketing. Concerning the world wheat problem of low prices and over-supplies, I do not think that anyone is competent to say that a solution has been reached. The bad crops in North America this past two years and in Argentina last year have reduced supplies and provided a breathing spell, but such low production is unusual and cannot be expected to continue. An average crop in North America and Argentina this year will precipitate the problem to an acute stage once again and with possible serious consequences to every wheat producer in Canada, even if our carryover is restored to normal figures. The world's wheat producing machine is geared to high volume and until Europe feels inclined to relax import restrictions the wheat exporting nations are almost certain to be faced with a serious situation.

The Wheat Pools maintain that this problem is one which properly comes within the purview of the federal government and can only be dealt with by a federal Wheat Board operating on a carefully worked out plan devised by the government including the promotion of international co-

operation in supplying world requirements rather than in cut-throat competition. Our constant agitation over the past five years and longer resulted in the formation of such a board. Of course, since the board was formed, many interests have claimed a share in its origin, but every grain grower can be positive of this: that without the insistence of the organized farmers there would be no wheat board in Canada today.

You doubtless have read or heard of the support given grain growers of other countries by their governments. Europe has led all continents in solicitude for the welfare of its wheat farmers. United States has poured a stream of money, in recent years the amount reaching close to 100 million dollars annually, into the hands of her wheat growers. Australia through currency depreciation, a high domestic price for flour and direct bonus, has spent many millions of dollars on her wheat growers. Argentina has artfully manipulated exchange and her domestic money values and recently fixed a minimum price of 90c a bushel for her wheat growers.

Canada would not depreciate her currency, so our wheat was shut out of the Orient and sales to Europe were hampered. Our efforts to obtain a wheat board to aid in marketing and to enable us to place a portion of the burden of low prices on the Dominion, where it properly belongs, were redoubled.

AMBITION REALIZED

Last summer we saw this ambition realized. We obtained a Wheat Board and, through the strenuous efforts of our representatives, we were successful in obtaining a minimum price of 87½c a bushel basis 1 Northern at the terminal. It is no secret that interests opposed to farmers in business sought a much lower price but, as events have proven, the price fixed was not unduly high and it gave assurance of at least a meagre profit to those fortunate enough to raise a good crop. It would have been disastrous had lower prices prevailed, in view of the smallness of the crop and the damage sustained to a large percentage of it.

MEASURE OF BOARD'S SUCCESS

We are anxious for the perpetuation of this Wheat Board as a permanent institution. We believe it necessary for the protection of all western wheat growers. We are fearful of what might happen if this bulwark is removed and the growers again subjected to the whims of a multitude of speculators and manipulators. So we sincerely hope that the present board will always keep this thought uppermost in their minds, and not forget that the success attributed to their operations will be measured not by the empty applause of speculators or politicians, but by the purchasing power placed in the hands of the western producers which affects all classes of Canadian people, and the measure of satisfaction and contentment in western agriculture. If their policy is worked out with this in view, then the organized farmers in Western Canada pledge their wholehearted co-operation. We submit that The Canadian Wheat Board has the power today to make or break the producer of the West.

EUROPE

There is no present reason to believe that Europe will import much more wheat in the next few years than in the past few years or that world trade will be much more than 600 million bushels. In fact the possibility is that the range will run from 550 million bushels to 600 million bushels. Canada has found that to obtain more than 35 per cent. of the total wheat trade of the world in normal years, prices must be forced to very low levels. Other large exporting nations are not going to give up export markets without a struggle and that applies to United States as well as Argentina, Australia, the Danube Basin and Soviet Russia.

For the past five years Canada's average wheat production has been 350 million bushels. A series of poor crops reduced the volume considerably.

For the five years' period from 1924 to 1928 inclusive the average annual production was 400 million bushels. We might quite easily have a 400 million bushel production in Canada this year as compared with 275 million bushels for last year. Normal consumption added to domestic uses of wheat for seed and feed total approximately 115 million bushels leaving an exportable surplus of 285 million bushels from a 400 million bushel crop.

THE UNITED STATES

The United States has been out of world trade in wheat for two years and for the two years previous to that figured in the trade only in a small way. But several years ago that country exported an average of 150 million bushels a year with unfailing regularity. The probability is that increased wheat production will develop in that country with the lessening of drouth and the absence of rust epidemics. For the past two years the United States crop has been between 500 and 600 million bushels but she can and has produced nearly a billion bushels of wheat in one year, and it is noticeable that the area sown to winter wheat there last fall is the largest since 1928. United States must still be considered as a very important factor in world trade.

If world trade does not increase materially and stays around the 500-600 million bushel mark and Canada cannot obtain more than 200 to 210 million bushels of it, we have the pressing problem of what to do with the balance.

MOST UNFAIR

We do not think that western wheat growers should be compelled to accept the low price levels offered by the so-called world price for wheat. No other important class of Canadian people are asked or expected to accept remuneration for the services they render on such a basis. We submit it is most unfair to ask farmers to accept such a low standard of living.

We hope the worst fears will not be realized and that an easier way out of the problem presents itself. But the western farmer must realize the actualities of the situation and the possibilities for danger to him and his family.

RESTS WITH FARMER

We can and must continue to grow quality wheat but we dare not neglect the marketing end of our business. If a wheat war develops internationally and if our product must be virtually given away in the process we cannot be reasonably or fairly expected to bear the burden. All other important interests enjoy a measure of protection. We think our plea for an agricultural safeguard cannot meet with justifiable criticism.

To sum this whole matter up, the responsibility rests on the farmers of Western Canada to produce the highest quality wheat they possibly can, and the Dominion government must supply the necessary safeguards through the Wheat Board to keep them in business.

OUR SUCCESSORS

Radio Address by C. H. BURNELL
Vice-President Manitoba Pool Elevators

January 29th, 1936

NATURALLY one is led to ask—"who will our successors be on these western plains?" The more I think about it, the more I incline to the opinion that unless we very soon begin to change our ways, our successors will not be our own boys and girls, but the North American Indians, who in some ways were much more sensible than we are. For instance, did you ever hear of the Blackfoot Indians freezing for want of clothes and starving for want of food, on account of finding large herds of buffalo—more than they could use—and having difficulty in disposing of the surplus because the Aztecs in Mexico did not need to wear buffalo hides and preferred to live on a diet of fruit and wild turkey instead of importing buffalo meat and pemmican? No, no one has ever heard such a story of the Western Indians and no one ever will, simply because the Indian had too much sense to starve and freeze in the midst of plenty.

OUR LAMENTABLE STORY

But we Canadians, supposed to be a civilized people—what is our lamentable story? We are a nation of ten million people, the great majority of whom are willing to work. We have wonderful natural resources, land, mines, waterpower, fisheries, lumber, coal, and oil, with science and machinery to develop these resources, but what is our position? We say we cannot enjoy the use of these things which are indigenous to this country because the Europeans don't want our wheat, Britain does not want our cattle, our butter, or our poultry. Should we not pause to ask ourselves—are we a very sensible people? One can almost hear the Indian laugh. If we only had to do without things like tea, coffee, rubber—things which are not raised in this country—there would be some sense to our position. But no, we refuse to use all we need of the things we have, simply because other nations will not or cannot buy them.

Every human being needs assurance of food, clothing and shelter at least. Thousands of Canadians are going without proper clothes, without proper shelter, without sufficient fuel, and without sufficient food, when the raw materials for all these things are produced in plenty in Canada. Should we not concentrate our thoughts on the problem of distributing first the things which we have in this country, and then bend our energies on getting the widest markets we can for our surplus products?

PLENTY FOR ALL

Plenty of statistics are available to show that Canada has ample resources to feed, clothe and shelter all her people. Science and machinery are at hand to convert our raw materials into food, clothing and shelter. Hundreds of thousands of unemployed are ready to tackle this job. But you say we cannot afford plenty for all. Listen to this—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University (who is far from being an agitator), estimates the cost of the Great War at four hundred thousand million dollars, that is 400 billion dollars. "With that amount we could have built a \$2,500 house with \$1,000 worth of furniture, and placed it on five acres of land worth \$100 per acre, for every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany

and Russia. There would have been enough left to give each city of 20,000 inhabitants and over, in all the countries named, a \$5,000,000 library and a \$10,000,000 university. Out of the balance we could have set aside a sum at 5% interest which would pay for all time a \$1,000 yearly salary each for 125,000 teachers and 125,000 nurses. After having done all this, we could still have bought up all of France and Belgium, everything that France and Belgium possessed in 1914, every home, factory, church, railroad and street car. Canada itself has a very small armament budget, but sixty cents of every dollar of dominion taxes go to pay war pensions and interest on war debt."

TURNING TO WAR

Yet with the bloodstained pages of this darkest chapter in the world's history spread out before us, we find the nations of the world feverishly arming for battle on a vaster scale than ever before. We are told that there is a possibility, almost a certainty, of another world war which may flare up in flames and bloodshed at any moment without warning. Such a war as modern weapons of death could wage might destroy such civilization as man has built up, piling fresh mountains of debt on top of the unpaid debts of the last war. Far worse would be the slaughter and maiming of the finest of the world's youth, the successors of the present generation, those who should find full scope for their energy and intelligence in making this world a better and happier place to live in instead of a hell on earth.

We, as successors of past generations, have benefited from legacies of invention and discovery, immortal books, treasures of art and of knowledge, lessons to help us plan our way of living, bequeathed to us by those who have gone before. The most valuable legacy we have received from our forefathers was the revelation to some of the great minds in past ages that mankind had the power if it had only the will to do away with most of the misery, the poverty and unhappiness of humanity if men would only help their neighbors instead of fighting them. This is the real meaning of the golden rule, and the golden rule in practise is co-operation, each for all and all for each.

UTOPIAN IDEAS

The world jeered and laughed at these Utopian ideas, and it remained for a few humble and poverty stricken weavers in an obscure corner of England to demonstrate how easily a new system of benefiting oneself by working with one's neighbors could be established, providing that the neighbors were loyal to each other. Today the organization they founded is one of the largest and soundest manufacturing and distributing organizations in the world, with many millions of members and hundreds of millions of reserves.

CO-OPS. DOMINANT

Not only are the Old Country Co-operatives the dominant force in the distributing business in England and Scotland, but they are a powerful influence in stimulating the formation of producers' co-operative organizations. In my own country the reverse is true, the producers' co-operatives being the main factor in encouraging the formation of the wholesale and retail co-operative movement. These producer grain handling co-operatives in Western Canada were formed to correct great injustices to the growers in the handling and marketing of their grain. The practises which exacted such a heavy toll from our grain growers fifteen and twenty years ago were largely done away with when the farmers built up their own efficient grain handling, marketing organizations. But there is a new generation growing upon the land, our successors, who have only a vague idea of the conditions their parents on the farm had to contend with.

A whole generation has grown up since the world war, knowing nothing about its horrors except by hearsay. Had the older generation, in all so-

called civilized countries, done its duty in giving a clear idea of the waste, the folly and the wickedness of war, the nations of the world would have been compelled to settle their differences according to the rules of reason and justice instead of by bullets and poison gas. A whole generation has grown up on our farms since the farmers established their own co-operative marketing organization. If we, the older generation, had done our duty to our growing boys and girls in giving them as clear a grasp of what the co-operative movement could do for the producers and consumers of the country, we would by today have established the movement in Canada on as firm a foundation as it is in Finland and Denmark and other Scandinavian countries and have come through the depression as well as these countries have done.

WHAT OF BOYS AND GIRLS?

What are we doing for the thousands of boys and girls who graduate every year from our eighth grades, our high schools and universities? In a society functioning along co-operative lines, there would be a place for all who were willing and able to work, and unemployment would be merely a temporary period of adjustment, getting square pegs for the square holes and round ones for the round ones, instead of the shameful tragedy that it is today.

Our successors, the boys and girls on our farms and in our towns and cities, could look forward hopefully to a life of useful service adequately rewarded. There would be prosperous years and years not so prosperous, but there would not be the stark despair that is embittering and distorting the lives of so many of our young people today.

It is less than a hundred years since the fear that hung over society was the dread of shortage of food and clothing through lack of a sufficient supply. Emphasis was then properly placed on production as the world's greatest problem. Man's conquest over the forces of nature, his discoveries of chemical fertilizers from the ground and in the air, the invention and improvement of modern agricultural machinery with the mass production of our factories, and improved methods of tillage have banished the fear of famine for all time from the earth, except for one great danger that manaces agriculture on this continent.

Under a private profit system there have been incredibly reckless and wasteful methods in exploiting our natural resources, the coal and the oil and mineral beneath the surface, the forests and soil above it. Within two or three generations over fifty million acres of fertile land in the states to the south of us have been destroyed by improper methods of cultivation and cannot again be rendered productive for generations to come. But if we take proper care of our soil and keep it from blowing into the muskegs to the east and north of us, our land can be made to yield abundantly for uncounted generations.

MUST BRIDGE GAP

While we must still do our best to improve our methods of production and the quality of the products we raise, the world's greatest problem today is to bridge the gulf between our capacity to produce and our capacity to purchase. There is not overproduction if we look at the needs of humanity but we do know from bitter experience that to produce in excess of general purchasing power is to invite misery and ruin for the producer. The producer must receive a price that remunerates him for his labor but the economic order of today says emphatically, even brutally, that production in excess of the demand set by purchasing power will reduce prices below, and even far below, an adequate remuneration to the producer.

Industry can adjust production to purchasing power with comparative ease; agriculture cannot and even if it could an enormous pressure is brought to bear upon it to maintain production at the highest possible point regardless of price. We co-operators are striving vigorously in the face of deter-

mined opposition to secure for our farmers a living price for their produce and we insist that if, in wheat for example, the national interest demands that production be maintained, even though the price be ruinous, then the nation itself must stand by the farmer and make up to him the difference between the market price and a living price. It is neither right nor fair that in a world which cares nothing for human needs, but only the capacity to purchase, the farmer should be forced to be a lone philanthropist—starving himself while feeding others.

PASS ON PROBLEM

The complete solution of this greatest of all economic problems will not be reached in this generation; we will perforce have to pass it on to our successors but we have at least an instrument to mitigate the ill effects of the present situation in The Canadian Wheat Board and the legislation establishing it, and it is for us today to see that this instrument remains as a permanent institution, and a substantial factor in eliminating the strife for world markets and in achieving far-reaching measures of world economic co-operation, thus bringing into the full service of humanity the fruits of man's labor and industry.

LOYALTY TO IDEALS

Radio Address by Dr. WALTER C. MURRAY
President University of Saskatchewan

February 5th, 1936

THE subject appointed for this talk is "Loyalty to Ideals," and in this connection I wish to remind you of one who exemplified in his life devotion to a noble ideal.

Nearly two thousand years ago a poet farmer of Italy described the perfect man as "justum et tenacem propositi." These Latin words pronounced in the English fashion almost translate themselves. Just and tenacious of purpose is the perfect man. The word "tenacious" suggests firmness in the face of opposition, steadfastness in times of adversity. Horace says neither the clamor of bad men nor the anger of the tyrant can shake his resolution. Though the fury of the tempest and the lightning bolt bring his world clattering in ruins around him he remains without fear. Tenacity of purpose, loyalty to ideals is the distinguishing mark of great men. With this thought in mind Horace sings the praises of the heroes of his people.

Tenacity, firmness in resolution is not enough. Some of the greatest scourges of humanity were resolute, unyielding in their determination and fearless of consequences. Alexander the Great, Attila the Hun, Ivan the Terrible, Napoleon the Great, were supreme in this respect. The essential thing is not strength of will but rightness of purpose. Horace places "justum" before "tenacem"—justice before tenacity. And it is this quality of justice (let us interpret it as regard for others) that marks the perfect man.

Horace records the deeds of the great in Latin myth and history. If we go back for but a brief hundred years in our history we will find that the most glorious names are those of men and women who never faltered in their devotion to the good of others.

WORKERS FOR HUMANITY

For nearly fifty years William Wilberforce fought vice and denounced the horrors of the slave trade. Death came to him one month before the slaves of Britain were granted freedom.

Elizabeth Fry, secure in the comforts of this world, was greatly moved by the miseries of women in the prisons and in season and out of season wrought for prison reform.

Richard Cobden had suffered and witnessed the agonies of starvation in the hungry forties. When his great friend John Bright was overwhelmed with grief over the loss of his wife, he appealed to him to turn from his sorrow to the sufferings of the starving people around them. Together they rested not until the food of the people was freed from taxation.

Florence Nightingale, the Lady of the Lamp, full of compassion for the wounded who suffered horribly in the Crimea, transformed the hospital service of the world by her self sacrifices and indomitable courage.

Lord Shaftesbury, haunted by the sight of the wasted bodies and helpless faces of the little children in the factories, fought without ceasing until they were delivered from the greed of heartless employers.

Abraham Lincoln, the great liberator, and William Booth who brought

hope and salvation to the submerged tenth, will live in history because of their unfaltering devotion to the unfortunate.

* * * *

To this glorious company of Victorians who loved their fellowmen and were steadfast in their devotion we might add the names of many whose lot fell in narrower circumstances but whose devotion was no less unselfish and steadfast. They brought hope and healing to the distressed and unfortunate of their time.

May I direct your attention to two of a later generation who won the hearts of their fellowmen by their devotion to a great ideal of "friendliness, good-will and mutual benefit."

A short time ago there died in Dublin one known to the world as "A.E." who wrought great and lasting good to Ireland through his songs and advocacy of co-operation.

On the 21st of October, 1931, there passed from Saskatchewan, in the plenitude of his powers, one who was known to his friends as "A.J.", whose life was spent without regard to self in the service of others.

NOT UNTO HIMSELF ALONE

Alexander McPhail came with his parents from Bruce county in Ontario to Basswood near Minnedosa, in Manitoba. When his father and mother died he was left as head of a family of nine. From Basswood he moved to a homestead near Elfros in Saskatchewan. Here, with the aid of a brother and an old Scottish grandmother, he determined to give each of his brothers and sisters a good education and start in life. All but he completed courses in college or university.

It was here as he "spent long hours on the land," as he "learned something of the hopes and disappointments of people who must work to live, of the hope that one day they will not have to work so hard, that one day they may be able to enjoy some of the leisure and some of the good things of life and, as the years slipped by, he saw their patience and courage as they realized there was no prospect of better things to come, no relief from the haunting fear of poverty in old age"—as he saw these things there came to him a great desire "to bring about a state of affairs where, in reality all shall have equality of opportunity, where poverty will be unknown, where life for each individual can be lived in fuller measure."

These words are taken from an address, with the significant title "Not unto himself alone," which was delivered by Alexander McPhail at Carlyle Lake in memory of George Tarbat who in his life had not only believed in the principles and ideals of co-operation but had practised them.

On this occasion McPhail revealed the manner of man he was. He had little personal knowledge of Tarbat but he knew and appreciated the ideals that filled Tarbat's life and as he attempted to interpret him to his audience he drew upon his own experiences, his hopes, his ideals and his philosophy of living.

HOW IDEAL STATE MUST COME

Hear these golden words uttered after he has set forth the character and scope of co-operation.

If some day we are to have a more ideal state, that state must first live in the minds and hearts of individual men and women. We can talk of changing present conditions by legal enactments, but if there is to be permanent change for good the change must first take place in the minds of men and women. Co-operation is a practical as well as an ideal way of life. All great movements of the people must have something that will appeal to the imagination of the people. The prospect of greater financial returns alone is not enough. Unselfishness, the spirit of sacrifice, the spirit of fair play, of "do unto others as you would that they should do unto you," of kindness—these qualities make a great and lasting appeal to the hearts and imaginations of men. Co-operation in its best and truest sense stands for all these.

Alexander McPhail, like George Tarbat, appealed to the hearts and imagination of the people of this western land. In thus explaining the secret of Tarbat's appeal he reveals his own. He said "they sensed that he had something which, if grasped and understood and practised by men generally will quickly transform the world. All men who have really left their impress for good on their community or in the wider world of affairs have had it. The great secret after all is very simple—too simple for many to understand or comprehend—forget self."

"Neither men nor women can grow to their full stature, reach the full measure of their powers for good unless they forget self."

FORGETFULNESS OF SELF

This forgetfulness of self was evident in everything that Alexander McPhail did. He hated publicity and all that makes for the glorification of self. Again and again he refused office until driven by the compulsion of circumstances and his fellow workers to realize that unless he assumed responsibility the goal of their endeavors could not be attained. With like disregard of self, he refused a salary commensurate with the responsibilities he had assumed, and shunned everything that would remove him from the sympathy of those for whom he labored.

In the difficult negotiations which he undertook to bring unity into the operations of the three Pools, his fairmindedness and contempt for sectionalism won the confidence of all. He had, as one of his fellow workers said, "the rare ability of inspiring confidence not only in those most closely associated with him but in those with whom he came into contact within the wider sphere of his duties as head of the Central Selling Agency of the Pools."

He kept the confidence of the common people because he never forgot the pit out of which he was dugged, the stern hard discipline of early life, the unremitting and too oft unremunerative toil of those years of pioneering.

In times of great difficulty, when the perversity of man and the adversity of circumstances had almost exhausted patience and threatened disaster, he turned to another son of the common people who never forgot those from whom he sprang nor wavered in his devotion to a great cause. In Abraham Lincoln he found kinship of spirit and the infinite patience and deep understanding of humanity which overcomes all obstacles.

As one recalls what Alexander McPhail did, what leadership he could have given in times of unparalleled hardship and difficulty one realizes what Saskatchewan lost when he was taken at the very beginning of a lifetime of great usefulness and power.

DEVOTION TO COMMON GOOD

I cannot forbear at this point to speak of another of Saskatchewan's great men, who never forgot the humble circumstances from which he came, nor lost the burning enthusiasm to better the lot of the common people who too was taken in the prime of life, when his powers and the confidence of the people made possible the attainment of great things. Ontario gave to Saskatchewan Alexander McPhail and Edmund Oliver, two great leaders, whose abilities, devotion to the common good and burning enthusiasm might, had they been spared, transformed rural life in Saskatchewan.

* * * *

The friends and co-workers of Alexander McPhail have decided to establish a Foundation to carry on that task of education in the principles of co-operation which he had begun, and to put into practice those principles which he belived can transform the world.

May every success attend their efforts.

Already two great admirers of McPhail and his work, the late Mr. and Mrs. Coe of Plunkett, left their estate to the Memorial Foundation. In honoring McPhail they have honored themselves.

The RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Radio Address by DEAN E. A. HOWES
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Alberta

February 12th, 1936

AN oft-repeated proverb occurred to me as I started to prepare a radio statement upon co-operation. It was the old proverb about fools rushing in. I admit now that the parallel is not obvious, but I still have the remnant of a doubt as to my wisdom in accepting the task set me. My reason for doubt will appear as I try to set out my observations upon the subject allotted to me.

Suppose any one of my many hearers should step up to me and say, "Do you believe in co-operation?" My answer would be ready, "Yes, I do." However, should he go further and say, "What do you mean by co-operation?" I should choose the words of my reply very, very carefully, because I have a strong feeling that the term often has been bandied about from one to another, in such a loose and irresponsible manner, that it has become a commonplace, carrying little definite message to those to whom it is directed. The fact is that any word or group of words, used too often or too carelessly, soon loses force and direction.

WORD TOO GLIBLY USED

All this is leading up to a part of my text, namely, that we have weakened the force and significance of a word that should stand for one of life's greatest forces, for one of life's first manifestations. Some of you must have read one or more of Cohen's negro stories. The writer had one favorite phrase—"words you says, but they ain't mean nothin'." That is my complaint about the too glib use of the word "co-operation." I shall try to illustrate by concrete examples.

Co-operation in the realm of terminology may come to stand for something very selfish, may be only a movement to secure the enlistment of others, just to further some selfish end. I often smile when I think of how I heard the word used once upon a time. On a certain job I had two men working, a tall man and a short one—we used to call them Mutt and Jeff behind their backs, I am ashamed to confess. One morning, after they had been working together for some time, Jeff came to me with a thinly veiled suggestion that he could get along nicely without Mutt's company on the job. I pressed him for a reason, but for a time all I could get out of him was "Mutt won't co-operate." I sent for the long fellow and we threshed the matter out. Eventually I discovered that Jeff had sought the aid of Mutt in some rather shady performance, the details of which I need not trouble you with now, and the refusal of Mutt to lend a hand had so enraged the little fellow, that he had set out to make trouble.

Well, just at that time co-operation, as a term at least, was being heard of more than usual in our fair Province, and Jeff figured to be right in the fashion. I only tell this story to show that co-operation can apply to some things we do not expect and is therefore not in itself necessarily a term standing for progress and uplift.

ANOTHER EXPERIENCE

Some years later I had another experience that was a bit illuminating as to manipulation of the term co-operation. It was when I was Chairman of a standing committee of our Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists,

a committee appointed to survey the activities of Dominion and Provincial institutions of agriculture. May I say in passing that I found comparatively little evidence of the overlapping that we are told about, and I have evidence to prove what I say. What I did find out, however, was that there were a lot of loose claims as to co-operation and that those using the term did not have in mind just what that term really should stand for. In exasperation I wrote in my first report as follows:

"In the light of replies received it would appear that the word 'co-operation' as applied to the relationship under study is an overworked term for a nebulous idea. One writer used it eleven times in a short letter, and not once did he try to explain what he meant. Like charity this word has been employed to cover a multitude of, well, discrepancies and ambiguities. We would respectfully suggest that this word be censored unless accompanied by something descriptive. As one member put his opinion: 'The word "co-operation" listens well. It is a word to conjure with when we have occasion to tickle the ears of a half interested public; but—'.

"The sting in the whole question of alleged co-operation would appear to lie in the practice of one institution announcing a certain policy, proceeding to put it into practice, and then inviting the co-operation of another institution, that had not been consulted previously. The refusal or neglect to accept this invitation, couched in such popular phrasing, automatically puts the party of the second part in the position of apparently not wanting to co-operate. This complaint is not one-sided by any means and it well merits some attempt at remedy."

Oh, yes, I laugh at myself when I read this, but I also laugh at the memory of the faces of my colleagues when I read this part of my report. No, friends, I cannot concede the position that because I do not believe in some scheme of yours, I am therefore lacking in the true spirit of co-operation. Perhaps my position may be the correct one upon further analysis.

PRESUPPOSES SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE

Then, too, it must not be forgotten that co-operative effort presupposes that we have something to contribute, something to pool if you please, and I am not referring to any particular enterprise when I speak thus. True, the will to co-operate may be present and circumstances may prevent the implementing of that will but, as a general thing, the urge presupposes action of a positive sort. Herein lies a difficulty.

Let us suppose a case: two farmers are neighbors. One is thrifty, industrious and systematic in his farming practice; the other is not so thrifty, not so industrious, not so systematic. Let us suppose that there is some urge to co-operative effort of some sort in that district, and that both of these farmers are willing to take part. One is of the type to make a fine contribution, the other is not the sort to make much of a contribution. We can only make a surmise as to what would happen. Should a testing time come, however, I know which one I would expect to stand firm.

Another thing we must understand, too, is that any sort of a hook-up is not in itself a guarantee of true co-operation. My father used to tell about a certain man who had a willing team of horses—one was willing to do all the work and the other was willing to let him. Here was an ideal hook-up, I submit; same sort of whiffle-tree and traces, same sort of collar and hames, same sort of bridle and reins but, despite all this, that team was a mess, because one of the potential co-operators was not actuated by the right sort of spirit. I know that the millennium will be here when all the members of any organization will make a full contribution but that does not prevent us from working toward an ideal. No, it is not enough that we have an outer semblance of co-operation, I mean it is not enough that we just go through the motions. To use a teamster's phrase—it is necessary that we all hit the collar.

GREATEST OBSTACLE TO CO-OPERATION

Now if I were asked to state what, in my opinion, constitutes the greatest obstacle to true co-operative achievement, taking the long view, I should be compelled to say it would be the lack of appreciation of that for which co-operation stands. Let me give a concrete analysis. In my opinion the banding of a group of farmers together for the purpose of selling collectively may not be, in the long run, co-operation. The banding of a group of farmers together for the purpose of buying collectively, I would of course put in the same category. I could go on to describe other forms of group action and in every case I could hang out the warning signal.

True, some of these groups are sometimes hurriedly formed, without due forethought or foundation laying, but there the danger is obvious. The danger that is not obvious lies in the lack of realization that the efforts just described are not of a necessity inspired by a true desire for co-operation. At best they are only outer manifestations of co-operation and at worst they only make the road to real co-operation harder to travel. To put it in another way, they may be the results of co-operation, the outer manifestation as I have said; they are not, in the abstract, co-operation itself. Our text goes much further than that.

Now it may appear that the foregoing is the effusion of an old teacher and consists of a multiplicity of "don'ts," a collection of negatives. I do not care what it is called, so long as it is studied. I have a realization that I was not asked to prepare this with the idea that it would consist of a lot of verbal bouquets, and that we would resolve ourselves into a mutual admiration society. On the contrary we must beware of too much self-approval and auto-intoxication.

Why all this? Well, just because we have a man-sized task ahead of us, indeed, many such tasks and we have no time for self-congratulation, more than enough to keep the courage up. And now I come to the climax of my message. If all these things mentioned are but warnings about the dangers that beset our path, what is offered as an alternative? Here it is, and I give warning that it has nothing of the regular theses on co-operation, valuable as these are in the routine of our efforts.

AS FROM THE HEART

In my opinion true co-operation goes far beyond the grouping of people together for the purposes of gain, admirable and commendable as all that may be in itself. To me co-operation appeals as from the heart rather than from the head, but perhaps it should be the product of both. In a country of more even derivation, it could be looked upon almost as a religion, this desire to work together for the good of all. In other words, co-operation is of the spirit in the first place and must not be confused with spasmodic efforts toward group action.

Let me give a simple illustration. All my life I have been an earnest advocate of studied physical training, and I have tried to practice what I preach, even if I am now reduced to long walks, and I do not mean golf.

Well, then, I can say that, from the first, I have found out that no exercise is worth much unless there is an enjoyment of that exercise. Does not this illustrate what I have said in connection with co-operation? We must have the real desire to co-operate and that goes away beyond the desire for gain, reasonable as that may be.

PUT SOMETHING INTO IT

I once said on the spur of the moment and in answer to a question, "True co-operation will be manifested by the farmer who says sincerely, 'What can I put into this?' not, 'What is there in it for me?'" I mentioned our Society of Technical Agriculturists earlier in this talk. Every year when the Alberta members meet, I am asked to speak on this very problem as set

out in occasional queries as to what the membership means to the individual. I give them the same answer as I have just given here, in effect, "You will not get much out of it if you do not strive to put something into it."

In conclusion I would say that co-operation being so much of the spirit, it is in that field we must seek for our inspiration. Now it is not necessary to estimate just what the Good Book always means by the word "love"; neither is it necessary to estimate what you or I may always mean. However, we are told "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and we just cannot get away from it. Think that over. In many of our school readers is a little poem which many of you have committed to memory. Let me recite it to you as I close.

Abou Ben Adhem, may his tribe increase!
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold.
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said
"What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay not so,"
Replied the Angel. Abou spake more low,
But cheerily still and said, "Well then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The Angel wrote and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names who love of God had blest
And Lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

FARM WOMEN'S PROBLEMS

*Radio Address by MRS. S. V. HAIGHT
of Keeler, Sask.*

February 19th, 1936

THE problems of the farm woman are so many and so varied one wonders just where to begin. Most problems centre in the home; our children, our health and comfort, and happiness. The house, during these years of drought and depression, is gradually sinking to ruin and decay; lack of money for paint and lumber and all that goes to furnish a home and clothe and feed the family; things wear out and cannot be replaced. Out of doors things are as bad; outbuildings need repair, machinery is worn out or obsolete; the price the farmer receives for his products scarcely covering the cost of production, often not doing so. It may be good advertising to sell wheat below cost but it won't pay taxes or improve the farm home.

It has taken hundreds of years to raise our standard of living, and it is hard to feel that it may slip from us and that our children must be satisfied with a lower standard of living. This is one of our problems; but it can be solved, and is being solved where people are willing to co-operate.

The children are our greatest problem—their health, education, comfort and entertainment. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is supposed to be the right of every one, but often with our rural women the rule is existence, slavery and endurance, and their chief comfort is in the hope that next year will be better; enduring the present and blindly looking forward to what may or may not happen.

A FAMILY BUSINESS

Farm women and children must help provide food for the family. A farmer is the only business man I know of who requires the help of the whole family to make a living. All other business men take their wages or their profits and hand over to their wives the money needed to run the house and clothe the family. The town wife, for instance, buys, or orders over the telephone, and her supplies are delivered. She has running water, electricity or gas, and her work is made comparatively easy. Her children have few chores and can use their spare time for play or study.

The farm woman is expected to help pay store bills with eggs and butter and, of course, raise poultry to sell for any extra money she may need. And she and the children must help feed pigs and calves; must bring in the cows and perhaps help with the milking. They must put in and tend the garden. Then the children must perhaps walk miles to school, and after school hurry home to repeat the program. Is it any wonder young people leave the farm to look for something easier and where there may be more entertainment? Many rural children never have a chance to see the beautiful and wonderful shows available in larger centres, or hear good music and attend an opera. The radio brings us the best music, but is often turned off because not understood. The same is true of literature; better books and magazines are often passed over for the same reason.

Adult education is neglected in this country, and mothers find it hard to keep abreast of their children. Educationists, scientists and technologists are going ahead so fast that, to use the words of one of the university debaters from Winnipeg last Friday night, "Our social order has fallen far behind our machines." And our rural women worry over this lack of educational op-

portunity and wholesome entertainment, with thousands of our young people unemployed, and with seemingly no future to look forward to.

AND THE HEALTH PROBLEM

Few municipalities have doctors or hospitals; these that have are handicapped for funds and needed equipment, and, in spite of the fact that all health officers advise a thorough physical examination at least twice a year for adults as well as for children the fact remains that few rural dwellers ever have an examination at all until too late to avoid real illness and maybe a term in a hospital, an operation or even death. Eyes, teeth, and throats are neglected until their disorders become chronic.

The story of the Dionne quintuplets has been a great eye opener to the world. Just compare the care of these babies with that given to the prairie children you know. Five little premature babies scientifically raised to health and sturdiness with proper care and proper food! But what little rural baby, just a normal child, can have that care? Today, in the ordinary farm home in winter, water must be melted from snow in the kitchen, and the family washing, drying and ironing done there too. Maybe the only milk available is from an untested cow that has been milking for months. The problem is how can we get a square deal for every baby; for I maintain every child has a right to be well born and given a proper start in life.

THIS SELFISH SYSTEM

We live in a machine age. The machine has taken the place of our men and so we have the problem of unemployment. Governments are not solving our problems for us, and we must expect to do it ourselves. Individualism has failed; it makes millionaires and paupers; it breeds war and hatred among people; it is un-Christian and unsound, but, just as financial individualism followed feudalism, so must the co-operative ideal of mutual service and mutual responsibility follow this outgrown and selfish competitive system.

I heartily agree with Bennett Champ Clark, U.S. senator from Missouri, who says in a recent magazine article entitled *Detour Around War*, "I deny with every fibre of my being that our national honor demands that we must sacrifice the flower of our youth to safeguard the profits of a privileged few. I deny that it is necessary to turn back the hands of civilization to maintain our national honor. I repudiate any such definition of honor. Is it not time for every lover of our country to do the same thing?"

Right here I should like to pause a moment to congratulate two Manitoba University boys who took the affirmative in their debate last Friday night against Alberta University boys. They took the side against the youth of our country taking part in any future wars. I was so glad they were given the victory for they had all the arguments on their side. War settles nothing; it puts a burden of debt and taxes on those unable to carry it, and makes more millions for those interested in the munitions war. But, as I said previously, there is a way out, and that way is by co-operation. We must build up our co-operatives and stand by them, every man and woman. The Co-operative Movement is intrinsically a movement of mutual understanding, service and peace.

Denmark has co-operatives both for buying and selling. No middleman can take his profits from the worker, and there is no poverty among the farmers there. She also has splendid post-graduate courses for her youth and co-operative study groups or societies for adults. Are we less wise than the Danes? Denmark pays most of her taxes with her forests. She has no devastated forests as more trees must be planted when any trees are cut. No dry rubbish is allowed to be left to start fires. Profits of these forests go to the people and no private citizen can benefit at the expense of the people.

Even in Russia music, art and education are brought to the people. She also has night schools for adults. Yes, and Russia and Japan are listen.

ing to their technologists and are making use of the new inventions that will lighten labor and give more time for enjoyment and study.

WASTING RESOURCES

We have no intelligent policy of using our natural resources for the benefit of our people. There is waste from coast to coast. I have visited the west coast three times not always taking the same road, and I have made two trips east. One trip took me up and down the eastern coast. And everywhere was waste; wasted timber, wasted water power, wasted fruit and fish—and there are those who would destroy our wheat and meat! This is positively wicked and un-Christian. We have thousands of unemployed who could be put to work to save all this for our use—and there are thousands who could use it if it were available.

Sweden put her unemployed to work building up industries for the people, making use of her natural resources; and electricity will soon be in all homes. The Swedes have already electrified their railroads to the benefit of the common people. There is no unemployment there, no dire poverty, and the people are raising their standard of living.

Socialization of medicine and free hospitals are being talked of here.

It can be done, and is a splendid step forward. Even darkest Russia is building more and finer hospitals, sanatoriums and clinics; more and better schools; wonderful parks and club houses; museums and social centres with music and the drama. There are study courses for adults, and means are provided so that working people can enjoy them. Are we going to be less progressive?

Time will not permit me to name all the problems rural women must face, and there are plenty, weather like this. We have the problem of the wide open spaces and a sparse population facing us; but I cannot believe our condition is hopeless. Co-operation, that is true co-operation, where the consumer develops control of industry on the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number, and the producer gets the entire value of his product, can solve our problems. There would be no millionaires, it is true, but it would insure to all a good living and no unemployment and no poverty.

SELF-HELP

Then, finally, we can do much by ourselves to improve our living conditions. I have mentioned poultry and livestock, and I have touched upon the farm garden. This last is a subject that I feel is not taken quite seriously enough. The food value as well as the health and enjoyment of these things cannot be overestimated.

It has been proved beyond shadow of doubt that there are varieties of fruits and vegetables that are suitable for all districts in Western Canada—even in the far north. Here I would like to pay tribute to the splendid pioneer work carried on by the late George F. Graham, who, in this work as in many other ways, did much to develop the objectives of the Co-operative Movement on the prairies—namely, the improvement of the standard of living on the farm homes of the west.

We have suffered for the lack of fruit, yet there is a great variety of fruits that will grow and do splendidly here. Apples, plums, cherries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries grow in great variety. Among the strawberries and raspberries are the everbearing varieties that will extend the season of fresh fruit from June till frost, and supply fruit for canning.

CO-OPERATE

These things cost money you say. Very true, but so much can be done by co-operation, by seed and plant exchanges among ourselves, and the passing on of the hardier varieties. Melons and tomatoes are fruits and it has

been demonstrated beyond doubt that these can be grown much farther north than was thought possible. Both these fruits will ripen in the house if the frosts come too soon, and both make excellent jam.

Tomatoes can be canned, pickled, or canned as tomato juice, which is healthful and most enjoyable. I had reports from as far north as White Fox that the Bison tomato had ripened splendidly there. These are such hopeful reports. Some districts complain that certain potatoes are not successful, but others are. Citron is always successful and water melon most seasons. They usually ripen seeds, and northern grown seeds are most vital. By saving your own seeds we get them acclimated and earlier, and by the co-operative exchange of our home grown seeds we can better afford to buy the other varieties we so much wish to try. All these experiments have real value to ourselves first, to the state and to the seed houses, because this information is vital to them.

FORWARD, NOT BACK

Shelter belts and shade trees have a real place, and if every farmer would co-operate with our experimental farms in taking advantage of the free trees and shrubs, it would do much to shelter house and garden and make many things possible.

So, to sum up, if we would solve our problems, we must co-operate with ourselves and each other first, making use of things at hand, and then with our University for more extension work. Libraries that travel by bus, as in England, would give reading matter. Cultural services, such as bringing music and art and the enjoyable things of life before the people, as well as dressmaking and home canning, are necessary to make a rounded life. We must not lower our standard of living; we must go forward, not backward. For this we must do all we can ourselves, and remember that—united we stand, divided we fall.

True co-operation is Christianity applied to our every day life, and with faith all things are possible.

CANADIAN WHEAT POOLS

Summary of 1934-35 Operations

The Wheat Pool organizations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have all reported a successful operating year ended July 31st, 1935. In each province the Pool met all current commitments and added substantially to operating capital and reserve accounts. Summarized results are as follows:

Manitoba Pool Elevators Limited:

Net operating earnings.....	\$ 308,524.15
Paid to Manitoba Government: annual instalment of principal and interest on account of Government guarantee with reference to Pool overpayment to farmers on 1929 crop deliveries.....	177,722.42
Contribution to Special 10% Reserve.....	12,447.62
Interest on Growers' Equities.....	9,310.47
Surplus repayable.....	9,786.00
Construction Advances repaid.....	14,873.28
Credit to Platform Shippers and Reserve.....	37,076.15
Contribution to Working Capital.....	47,308.21

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool:

Net Operating earnings.....	\$ 864,349.11
Paid to Saskatchewan Government, with reference to 1929 Pool overpayment to farmers.....	1,135,256.98
Five per cent. depreciation on elevator system put aside.....	1,253,682.91
Expenditure involved re installation of a number of cleaners and building or purchasing new elevators, approximately.....	250,000.00
Working Capital Fund now stands at.....	6,820,179.90

Alberta Wheat Pool:

Net Operating Earnings.....	\$ 746,084.62
Paid to Alberta Government, with reference to 1929 Pool overpayment to farmers.....	454,571.87
Five per cent. depreciation on elevator system put aside.....	527,801.15
Paid on Vancouver Terminal No. 1.....	250,000.00
Working Capital Fund now stands at.....	4,344,579.97

Grain Handled 1934-35:

Manitoba Pool Elevators.....	10,908,637 bushels
Saskatchewan Pool Elevators.....	55,138,030 bushels
Alberta Pool Elevators.....	30,890,721 bushels
Total.....	<u>96,937,388 bushels</u>